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Iraq vows more air attacks

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi warplanes flew more than 130 combat missions against Iranian positions in the Gulf war on Monday and Baghdad's air force commander vowed his squadrons will pound Iran in the months ahead, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported. Air Marshal Hamid Shabab declared that "the Iraqi bomber would relentlessly strike on the heads of the Iranian rulers."

Israel reports rocket attacks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Guerrillas fired a Katyusha rocket into northern Galilee on Monday, the day after a bloody gunbattle between Israeli troops and Palestinians who infiltrated from Lebanon, the Israeli military command said. Three other rockets landed in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon, the command said. None of the rockets caused any damage or injuries, it said. At the same time, Israeli soldiers searched a Lebanese border village suspected of harbouring the three Palestinians who were killed after striking across the frontier, Israeli Radio said. Israeli retaliated for the predawn infiltration by bombing a building in the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyah, south of the Lebanese port city of Tyre, after sundown Sunday (see story below).

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Haj Hassan returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan returned to Amman Monday after chairing Executive Committee meetings of Arab Ministers of Social Development in Tunis. Mr. Haj Hassan was welcomed at Queen Alia International Airport by Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Development Mohammad Wardan and several ministry officials.

Khatib leaves for Damascus

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism Mohammad Al Khatib left for Damascus on Monday at the head of a delegation to take part in the sixth pan-Arab cultural conference due to be open Tuesday. Upon arrival at Daraa border point, Mr. Khatib was received by Syrian Minister of Culture Najah Attar and senior Syrian officials in addition to Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis.

Fire in Shmeisani

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 5th floor of a building in Shmeisani caught fire on Monday as a result of an electric contact, Jordan Television reported. The fire engulfed the entire floor, but no casualties were reported, according to Civil Defence men who rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire.

Belgian premier visiting Jordan

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens is on holiday in Jordan, a government source said Monday. He said the visit had no political motive, though Mr. Martens was expected to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The source said Mr. Martens arrived in Jordan on Friday and would stay for some days.

Pakistani team visits war academy

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Pakistani delegation from the National Defence College, led by Major-General Javid Nasser Monday visited the Royal War Academy, where they were briefed by the academy's commander on its duties and responsibilities. The delegation members toured the academy. They also visited the Royal Command and Staff College and were briefed on the college's duties.

Ramadan working hours announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Office hours in government departments and ministries will be restricted to between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. during Ramadan, according to a statement issued Sunday by the prime minister's office. The statement said that the new timing applies to offices which run normal office hours but other departments which require extra duty hours would have other arrangements in the light of the nature of their duty. The statement said that all government offices should take proper measures to ensure that fasting would be observed throughout the duration of the holy month which is expected to start on April 28. Liquor stores, bars and nightclubs are closed in Jordan during Ramadan.

PNC opens 18th session in Algiers

PLO abrogates Feb. 11 accord, pledges to seek 'new framework' for relations with Jordan

By Lamis K. Andoni and Bader Abdul Haq in Algiers

THE PALESTINE National Council (PNC) opened its 18th session here on Monday, marking the end of a bitter almost-four-year-old dispute between the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and two major factions of the PLO.

The PNC was convened after the PLO Executive Committee announced that it was abrogating the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan-PLO agreement.

The PNC session was opened with a keynote address by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who called for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. All PLO factions "now stand together, united until the final liberation of Palestine," Mr. Arafat told the audience at the opening session which included two of his hitherto opponents — George Habash who leads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Demo-

cratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), both of whom boycotted the 17th session of the PNC, held in Amman in 1984.

The return of Dr. Habash and Mr. Hawatmeh to the PNC was seen as a personal triumph for Mr. Arafat, who, in his 20-minute address, said: "We will maintain our armed struggle against Israel, not because we seek war, but because we want peace; a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Palestinian right to self-determination and to an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Mr. Arafat endorsed the proposal for an international conference under United Nations au-

spices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as all other "interested parties," including the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties.

The PLO chairman paid special thanks to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for their endeavours in the drive for PLO reunification that culminated in Monday's PNC meeting.

Mr. Benjedid attended the opening session in the PNC, but Colonel Qadhafi, who was expected to attend, was not present. Reports said "security reasons" were behind the Libyan leader's absence.

Mr. Arafat received a standing ovation when he entered the conference hall hand-in-hand with Mr. Benjedid.

Mr. Arafat greeted "all the friends of the Palestinian revolution, led by the Soviet Union," and renewed an appeal to Iran and Iraq to end their six-and-a-half-year-old war and "turn their guns against Israel for the liberation of Palestine."

Six factions of the PLO — Fateh, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party — attended the meeting. The Abu Nidal group, which made a last-minute bid to attend, was not represented in the gathering.

A statement issued by the group said it had decided to boycott the meeting because "of the failure of all efforts to curb the unlimited prerogatives" of the PLO chairman, but sources close to the PLO leadership said other factions agreed in pre-conference negotiations not to allow the renegade faction, which has a long history of extremist attacks in the Middle East and elsewhere, to attend the meeting.

In a press conference earlier, Dr. Habash also announced the dismantling of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), which grouped the PFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, Al

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians expect more Israeli raids after first cross-border attack in years

SIDON (Agencies) — Palestinians in South Lebanon's two main refugee camps braced Monday for more Israeli reprisal attacks after the first PLO operation inside northern Israel for several years.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) fighters with anti-aircraft weapons spread out into orange groves around the big 'Ain Al-Hilweh camp near Sidon and were on alert in the Rashidiyah camp near Tyre.

Israeli helicopter gunships raided Rashidiyah on Sunday in Israel's first response to the infiltration. One woman was killed and five people injured, reports said.

In Sidon, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstay Fateh group distributed photographs of three men whom it said crossed the border into Israel early Sunday.

The Israeli army said they were killed in a gunbattle with Israeli troops on the edge of an apple orchard near an isolated collec-

tive farm. Two Israeli soldiers were also killed, it said.

Fateh said in a statement accompanying the photographs: "The success of this operation confirms the failure of all security measures which the Zionist entity claims to have established in the face of our guerrillas."

Palestinian sources said it was the PLO's first overland infiltration into Israel from South Lebanon for years and the first Palestinian attack on Israel since an attempted sea-borne strike on Nahariyah in July last year ended with four attackers and two Israeli soldiers dead.

The photographs showed three guerrillas holding guns and lighting cigarettes for each other. The statement named them as Ahmad Abdallah, 25, born in Tripoli, north Lebanon; Bilal Amer, 19, born in Damascus; and Ibrahim Ayoub, 18, born in Beirut.

The Israeli army said the raid on Rashidiyah hit a house used for planning attacks on Israel. A Palestinian source in Beirut said the attack missed military targets.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said four helicopters approached from the Mediterranean and each fired two missiles from nine kilometres away at a one-storey house, which was demolished. Two nearby buildings were damaged.

The eight-minute raid, which drew anti-aircraft fire from the camp, was Israel's 10th raid on Lebanon this year and the first on the Tyre area.

Reporters were barred from entering Rashidiyah by anti-PLO Shi'ite Amal militia fighters who have ringed the camp for nearly seven months.

Women and children are allowed out to buy food for the camp's estimated 22,000 residents. About 80,000 refugees live in 'Ain Al Hilweh, which is not under siege.

"In spite of measures taken by Amal to besiege our people in South Lebanon and (Antoine) Lahd's security zone, the will to fight was stronger than all the challenges," Fateh said.

British police defuse sixth letter bomb in one week

LONDON (R) — A letter bomb was made safe at the home of a senior British civil servant on Monday, the sixth sent to government officials in the past few days, police said.

The Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing, campaigning for an end to British rule in Northern Ireland, claimed it sent the previous five.

Explosives experts defused the device early Monday at the home of Stephen Sherbourne, political secretary to the prime minister. He found the bomb on returning to his London flat after a few days away.

Police said the package was identical to five others discovered last week, and had been stamped with the words "University of Belfast, students union."

Last Thursday, letter bombs were sent to Sir Robert Andrew, permanent under-secretary at the Northern Ireland Office, and David Hobson, a former adviser at the prime minister's policy unit.

Both bombs were intercepted and made safe by experts.

The previous day, experts defused bombs addressed to Bernard Ingham, the prime minister's press secretary, and two other senior civil servants.

Reagan to brief Congress on arms control prospects

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan, fresh from a week-long stay at his mountaintop ranch, was due in Washington on Monday where he was expected to brief congressional leaders on prospects for what he called an "historic first" in arms control.

For Mr. Reagan, the focus of attention on a potential accord with Moscow to eliminate medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe and a possible summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is a welcome diversion from the scandal over the secret sale of arms to Iran.

The scandal is now in a lull but will return to the front pages soon with the opening of congressional hearings.

Jim Wright, democratic leader of the House of Representatives, on Sunday matched Mr. Reagan's rhetoric when he called the hoped-for accord "the best opportunity we've had since World War II."

Mr. Reagan has been making a strong pitch for an intermediate nuclear forces (INF) accord as a step towards his ultimate goal of scrapping all ballistic missiles.

"An actual reduction in the number of nuclear weapons would be an historic first — an accomplishment both sides could build upon for further progress," he said over the weekend.

He praised Mr. Gorbachev as

the first Kremlin leader "who has actually suggested eliminating — doing away with some of the weapons."

Mr. Reagan said since the Iceland summit in October 1985 the United States had been encouraged by signs of Soviet willingness to remove roadblocks to arms accords.

His statements seemed to concur with Secretary of State George Shultz's comment on return from his Moscow talks that the United States should take the Soviet Union "at face value" in wanting an accord.

Soviet arms negotiator Viktor Karpov said on U.S. television on Sunday it was a "clear position of our country" to negotiate reductions in conventional, non-nuclear forces as well as lower numbers of nuclear weapons in Europe.

"In this process we are ready to negotiate the redresses of any imbalances that are there or might be here in conventional forces," Mr. Karpov said.

European countries have expressed concern that removing NATO's nuclear defences would leave them vulnerable to attack by superior Soviet conventional forces.

Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Perle, a noted administration hardliner in Moscow with Mr. Shultz last week, expressed caution.

2 hurt in ambush on British army vehicle in Cyprus

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Unidentified gunmen ambushed a British army Land Rover on a highway in southern Cyprus on Monday, wounding the driver and a teenage girl passenger, British army spokesman John Rogers reported.

The attack was the first against British military personnel since an assault on the sprawling Akrotiri air force base on the south coast of the Mediterranean on Aug. 2 with mortars, rockets and machineguns. The wives of two servicemen were wounded.

Major Rogers said the gunmen opened up with "automatic weapons from a car on the British army vehicle" on the main highway between Dhekelia and Akrotiri.

"The driver, a corporal, received minor injuries in the right leg and a passenger, the teenage daughter of an army warrant officer, received gunshot wounds in the back. Neither are thought to be in a critical condition," Maj. Rogers said.

The corporal was driving the Land Rover and towing a horse-trailer from Dhekelia base in the east of Cyprus to Akrotiri base, eight kilometres west of the coastal city of Limassol.

A Cypriot police source said two masked men had lain in wait for the Land Rover in a car near 16 kilometres east of Limassol.

British military authorities put Dhekelia, Akrotiri and another army base at Episkopi on high alert, military sources reported.

The British, who ruled Cyprus until independence in 1960, maintain some 4,000 service personnel at the three sovereign bases on the island.

There was no indication who was behind Monday's attack. But a pro-Libyan faction calling itself the Unified Nasserite Organisation claimed it was behind last year's assault on Akrotiri.

Police said they were seeking a white Japanese-made car believed to have been used in Monday's attack. Eyewitnesses told Reuters police were stopping and checking white cars at a roadblock on the Limassol coast road.

British bases cover an area of about 260 square kilometres along the southern Cypriot coast, set up by treaty when the island won independence from Britain in 1960.



REGENT RECEIVES ENVOY: His

Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received the visiting Korean Minister of National Unity Moon-Do Huh, who is also the personal envoy of the South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan. Mr. Huh delivered a message

from the Korean President to His Majesty King Hussein. During the audience, Prince Hassan and the Korean minister reviewed bilateral relations and the recent developments in the Middle East region (Petra photo)

Israeli troops shoot and wound Palestinian boy in Khan Yunis

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip on Monday after protesters attacked an Israeli army vehicle with two firebombs, the Israeli army said.

The clash occurred in the town of Khan Yunis on Sunday night, the command said, when soldiers also closed the Gaza Islamic University for seven days following protests in which nine students were reported hospitalised after being clubbed by Israeli troops.

The campus has about 5,000 students.

Anti-occupation protests in the occupied territories have persisted since April 11 when an Israeli settler died in a firebomb attack, and a Palestinian student was shot dead by an Israeli soldier two days later.

Palestinian news reports identified the wounded Palestinian in Khan Yunis as Mohammad Al Sarjani, 18.

The Israeli army said soldiers opened fire at a group of protesters after the firebombs were thrown at soldiers, causing no injuries or damage.

The Gaza Islamic University was the fourth Palestinian university to be closed this month by Israeli authorities seeking to stem



Three Birzeit students under Israeli custody after violent anti-Israeli protests and demonstrations last week

the surge protests in the occupied territories.

Other violent protests were reported later Monday in the occupied territories, but none involved any injuries, Israeli radio said.

The radio said Palestinian protesters burned tyres in the road in the West Bank's largest city of Nablus and that Israeli vehicles were stoned by demonstrators near the West Bank city of Hebron.

Meanwhile, Palestinian-owned newspapers based in Arab Jerusalem published editorials on

Monday calling on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders meeting in Algiers to unify the organisation's fractious ranks.

"We appeal in the conferring leaders in Algiers to rise above all differences which impede the achievement of national unity," wrote the newspaper Al Shaah.

"We hoped that has been achieved so far constitutes extra impetus to strengthen the Palestinian movement within the framework of the PLO and to bypass the state of disarray," wrote the Al Ittihad newspaper.

Moscow proposes international conference on Iran-Iraq conflict

ABU DHABI (R) — The Soviet Union has called for international talks about protecting commercial shipping in the Gulf and on testing shipping lanes in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, WAM said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, who arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday night, told the Emirates News Agency (WAM) on Monday he was carrying proposals from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on convening such a conference.

"What is important now is how to make the first steps in this direction," Mr. Petrovsky was quoted as saying.

More than 20 commercial vessels have been hit so far this year in the Gulf in a maritime extension of the Iran-Iraq war, now in its seventh year.

Mr. Petrovsky is making the first visit to the UAE by a senior Soviet official since the two states established diplomatic ties in November 1985. Diplomats say his Gulf tour, which also includes Kuwait and Iraq, is expected to boost Moscow's profile in the Gulf.

WAM said Mr. Petrovsky and UAE Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed agreed in talks on Monday that protection of Gulf navigation was an international responsibility. They called for an immediate end to the war.

Moscow has already offered to provide naval protection for ships it has chartered to Kuwait, which appears to have been singled out in recent Iranian attacks on shipping.

Along with Western powers the Soviet Union maintains a naval presence in or near the Gulf

which diplomats in Kuwait estimate at two to three warships.

Mr. Petrovsky reiterated the Soviet Union's concern for protecting shipping lanes in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, WAM said.

The two sides also called for a Middle East peace conference in which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would participate. WAM quoted Mr. Petrovsky as saying the conference was unlikely to be held in 1987, but possible next year. He called for 1988 to be considered "year of the Middle East conference."

The UAE represents Arab countries on the United Nations Security Council, of which the Soviet Union is a permanent member. Moscow and Arab states have proposed the conference be held under U.N. auspices.

Mr. Petrovsky said it was necessary to "move from the stage of words to effective work" in organising a Middle East conference, and now was the right time to do so.

The conference idea has drawn support from the European Community, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organisation of Islamic Conference, but Israel is opposed.

WAM said the two sides also discussed strengthening bilateral ties, especially in the economic sphere. The Soviet Union recently opened a container line service to Dubai, the UAE's main port, and seeks to boost its exports.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said on Sunday superpower interference in the Gulf would "merely escalate ten-

sion and further endanger their own interests in the region," the Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, he said the superpowers were trying to "foment tension" under the pretext of securing shipping lanes.

An Iranian naval commander interviewed by the daily Resalat said Iran had intercepted more than 1,200 foreign ships in the Gulf over the past 18 months to check for Iraqi-bound cargo.

Cargoes of 30 Iraqi-bound ships were confiscated, he told the newspaper.

In another development, Iranian President Ali Khamenei on Sunday asked Iraqis opposed to the Baghdad government to draw up a constitution for a future Islamic government of Iraq, IRNA reported.

It said Mr. Khamenei told a meeting in Tehran of Iraqi dissidents to frame the constitution.

He told the group that there was a need to train military and political leaders to manage Iraq in the future.

Tehran's declared main aim throughout the 6½-year-old war with Iraq has been the downfall of the Baghdad government led by President Saddam Hussein.

In another development, Iraq has agreed to allow U.N. specialists onto its territory to investigate new allegations of chemical weapons use in its war with Iran, U.N. officials said Monday.

The four-man team is assembling in Frankfurt, West Germany, and will leave for the Middle East on Wednesday, said spokesman Joe Sills.

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Moscow moves closer to Egypt by rescheduling military debt

CAIRO (R) — Moscow has moved closer to Egypt, its one-time ally, by rescheduling \$3 billion of military debt at a time when Cairo is in urgent need of debt relief, diplomats said Monday.

The rescheduling deal and a new trade protocol were negotiated after extensive talks in Cairo and Moscow but the terms of the agreement, concluded in Moscow last month, have not been released officially either in Moscow or Cairo.

Egyptian Trade Minister Youssef Mustapha said on his return from Moscow that the success of his talks would lead to an increase in trade between the two countries.

He said financial problems with the Soviet Union had been satisfactorily resolved and all problems overcome. He did not elaborate.

But the semi-official Cairo press has released some details of the deal which indicate a generous package. It included scrap-

ping interest on the military debt and rescheduling a \$70-million civilian debt over 25 years at a reduced interest rate and a six-year grace period.

"The Russians played their part with considerable skill and have done quite well," said one Western diplomat. "We've seen a marked turn in Soviet-Egyptian relations."

Soviet Ambassador Gennady Zhuravlyov said last week that Moscow would resume the supply of military spare parts to Egypt.

The late President Anwar Sadat ended more than 25 years of almost total reliance on Moscow for political and military support when he expelled thousands of Soviet military advisers from Egypt in 1972.

He turned to the United States

for military supplies in the mid 1970s and Washington now pumps more than \$2 billion in military and economic aid into Egypt.

But, while Washington remains Cairo's main superpower ally, ties have been strained over \$4.5 billion military debt for which Cairo wants better rescheduling terms.

Egypt is suffering from a shortage of hard currency earnings because of depressed oil sales, a loss of tourism revenue and lower remittances from Egyptians abroad.

It is close to reaching a final accord on standby credits from the International Monetary Fund so that it can open negotiations on rescheduling its \$3.6-billion foreign debt.

The United States offered a partial reprieve on military debts last December by reducing interest to 7.5 per cent from an average 12 per cent. But President Hosni Mubarak said he was not satisfied and ordered his gov-

ernment to renegotiate.

The new accord with the Soviet Union, the diplomats note, came at a time when the talks between Egypt and the United States over the military debt problem had not made any headway.

"The Russians knew they were not going to get paid anyway, so why not waive interest and take benefit while embarrassing Uncle Sam at the same time," the diplomat said.

Moscow renegotiated the trade protocol at a new exchange rate for trade transactions between the two nations, a subject of protracted discussions between them.

The three-year trade protocol will raise the volume of trade from \$900 million to \$1.5 billion a year, the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram said.

Quoting an official source, it said Moscow had agreed that the trade balance would be in Egypt's favour, thus allowing Cairo to use part of the surplus to repay its debt.

Khartoum blames tribal fighting on Libyan arms

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Lebanon's civil war entered its 13th year amid a respite in the bloodletting brought about by Syria's military intervention.

But a settlement between Falangist and the opposition to end the conflict still appears distant.

The threat of another surge of savagery in a war that has become the cockpit of the region's feuds and conflicts still hangs over a country that was once known as the playground of the Middle East.

"The real problem we're facing is the four foreign military powers which play direct roles in the Lebanese war," said an aide of Falangist President Amin Gemayel. He spoke on condition he was not named.

"Eventually a settlement on such controversial issues as power-sharing between Christians and Muslims and constitutional reforms could be reached."

"But no domestic solution would end the Israeli occupation in South Lebanon, the growing Iranian influence in Shiite Muslim areas, the Palestinian guerrilla presence and Syria's military deployment," the official stressed.

The war began when Falangist ambushed a busload of Palestinians in Beirut on April 13, 1975.

Since then, the conflict has engulfed every part of Lebanon and left Mr. Gemayel the president of a country that in everything but name has ceased to exist as a political entity.

Lebanon has been dismembered into sectarian cantons, with the once dominant, Falangists beleaguered in a shrunken enclave and, like their rival sects, divided among themselves.

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Lebanon peace on knife edge as civil war enters thirteenth year

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The official death toll stands at 125,000, with nearly a quarter-

million wounded. But unofficial computerized records kept by a group of academics puts the death toll at more than 150,000.

The fighting, and the slew of factional blood feuds and Israeli incursions that have raged amid the civil strife, has made refugees of an estimated one million Lebanese, one quarter of the population, and wrecked what was once one of the Middle East's most prosperous economies.

Inflation, only 9 per cent in 1975, runs an annual rate of 200 per cent. Unemployment, virtually unknown 12 years ago, has been pegged at more than 20 per cent, but is almost certainly far amid the devastation.

Lebanon now has a foreign debt of \$600 million. The cost of reconstruction has been estimated at more than \$20 billion.

The war has made Lebanon a pariah among countries by turning it into a haven for terrorists of almost every political hue and the prison for more than a score of foreign hostages held by Muslim extremists.

Lebanon's bewildering array of Falangist and opposition factions — there are at least 17 officially designated groups — differ on almost everything except that peace is as far away as ever.

"Every Lebanese party to the civil war is now convinced that their dialogue (to end the conflict) will not produce any result," Beirut's leftist As-Safir daily has noted.

"The Lebanese merely reflect regional and international interests who use this country as an arena for their bloody conflicts," the paper has said somberly.

Mr. Gemayel's government has been paralysed, its writ running only in the Falangist heartland north of Beirut.

Half-Muslim, half-Christian cabinet of veteran Prime Minister Rashid Karami, a Sunni Muslim, has not met in full session with

Mr. Gemayel since December 1985.

The 1.9 million Muslims, who now outnumber the 1.1 million Christians, have demanded major constitutional reforms to end the civil war.

The Falangists, who have dominated the country since independence from France in 1943, refuse to relinquish their long-held privileges.

The Syrians, the main power brokers in Lebanon, are seeking to pressure Mr. Gemayel into making concessions to the Damascus-backed opposition.

Syria, with 25,000 troops in north and east Lebanon under 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate, sent 7,500 commandos into west Beirut on Feb. 22 to crush factional fighting between its Lebanese allies.

That has dramatically reduced the violence, but bombings continue and the Syrians still have not moved to curb Iranian-backed Shiite fundamentalists who challenge their influence in Lebanon.

The Syrians have moved into Beirut's Palestinian refugee camps to lift a bloody five-month siege by their allies, the Shiite Amal militia, aimed at smashing Yasser Arafat's efforts to stage a comeback in Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organisation guerrillas were driven out of their main power base by Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The Syrian intervention may have brought a temporary truce to the bloodletting. But Syrian President Hafez Assad still has not resolved his feud with Mr. Arafat.

More violence is also expected in South Lebanon, where Shiite fundamentalists of Hizbollah, or Party of God, and Mr. Arafat's Palestinians have vowed to intensify attacks on Israel.

Kremlin rules out ties with Israel

KUWAIT (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky has ruled out a resumption of diplomatic ties with Israel until it gave up Arab lands taken in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and agreed to international peace talks.

Mr. Petrovsky, addressing a news conference before he left Kuwait after a four-day visit, said he believed circumstances were now right for an international Middle East peace conference.

The Soviet envoy is scheduled to visit also the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Oman, in a round-trip of all Gulf Arab states with which the Kremlin has diplomatic ties.

"Our relationship with Israel will not resume as long as the reasons for severance prevail," he declared Sunday.

"Our relationship will not resume until Israel announces its withdrawal from all occupied

Arah countries, and announces its agreement to an international peace conference," he added.

Moscow has been pushing for an international conference under U.N. auspices to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, to be attended by the Security Council permanent members and all parties directly involved.

Mr. Petrovsky had been asked to comment a planned visit to Israel by a Soviet consular mission which he said was to have reviewed cases of Soviet citizenship and problems over real estate ownership, among other things.

Because Israel had used the trip for propaganda, he said, "we have decided to cancel the visit."

He reaffirmed remarks on his arrival here that the Kremlin had "some ideas" on ways to stop the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war, only miles away from Kuwait.

Sudanese doctors call for repeal of Islamic Law

It is correct we have some ideas to activate efforts to halt the Iran-Iraq war," he said, without giving details.

The Soviet Union, he added, sought to promote "dialogue, intensive consultations and discussions in the framework of the (United Nations) Security Council in order to prepare for the convening of a special session at the level of foreign ministers."

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, revived calls Saturday for Iran to join Iraq in responding to appeals to sit down and negotiate a peaceful end to the conflict.

Iran has ignored numerous international peace feelers, and vowed it would keep fighting until the Iraqi government is removed from power.

Mr. Petrovsky said the Emir Sunday accepted an invitation from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the Soviet Union.

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The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, revived calls Saturday for Iran to join Iraq in responding to appeals to sit down and negotiate a peaceful end to the conflict.

Iran has ignored numerous international peace feelers, and vowed it would keep fighting until the Iraqi government is removed from power.

Mr. Petrovsky said the Emir Sunday accepted an invitation from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit the Soviet Union.

Libya to free Briton sentenced for spying

LONDON (AP) — A British engineer serving a 12-year sentence for alleged bribery and industrial espionage in Libya will be released shortly, the Foreign Office has said.

The Libyan: News Agency JANA reported earlier Sunday that Robert Maxwell, a 38-year-old Scot, admitted he was spying against Libya.

The Foreign Office had no comment on the spying allegation but said the British government was "very pleased" by the confirmation it received from Libyan authorities that Maxwell will be freed.

Maxwell told a news conference in the Libyan capital Saturday night that he was doing "both

a technical job and a spying job in Libya and was getting paid two salaries," Libya's official JANA news agency said in a report, monitored in London.

He was arrested in 1980 while working for an Italian company in the Libyan port city of Benghazi.

JANA reported Saturday that Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi had "intervened for the release" of Maxwell after talks with British lawyer Ron Brown, who was in Tripoli last week.

The Foreign Office said Hugh Dunning, head of the British interests section at the Italian embassy in Tripoli, had received confirmation from Tripoli that Maxwell will be freed when the

"Department of Justice completes its normal procedures in such cases."

Western diplomats contacted by the Association Press in Tripoli confirmed that Maxwell had been moved from prison.

In an interview on Libyan television, shown on Britain's Independent Television show TV-AM, Maxwell said he had not been told officially of his impending release.

On receiving apparent reassurance from the interviewer, the smartly dressed engineer, looking fit and healthy, smiled broadly and said: "It's a fantastic feeling. I am very happy and thank everyone who has done anything to help in this."

It calls for the repeal of Sharia, an end to the state of emergency and the abrogation of military pacts signed with Egypt and Libya in 1976 and 1985 respectively.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said earlier this month he would replace Sharia with another legal code that he said would meet the aspirations of Muslims and non-Muslims in Sudan, a vast and ethnically-diverse country of 23 million people.

SUNA quoted Mr. Mahdi as saying after talks with Chad's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Kroum Ahmad that he would consult the Libyans on a date for the proposed talks.

Representatives from Libya and Chad met in Khartoum last month to try to reconcile their differences, but the talks ended in failure.

Mr. Mahdi said Mr. Ahmad, who arrived here earlier Sunday, handed him a message from Chad President Hissene Habre.

Libyan aide in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — A Libyan minister has arrived in Kuwait for a three-day visit carrying a message to the Emir from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the Kuwaiti News Agency KUNA reported.

Foreign Liaison Secretary (Foreign Minister) Jaddallah Azzouz Al Talhi said the message dealt with "the excellent fraternal relations binding the two countries within the frame of continuous consultations concerning the Arab nation's problems."

He was due to meet the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Tuesday and will also confer with Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Mr. Talhi earlier visited the United Arab Emirates and will go on to Saudi Arabia.

Algeria voices concern over Morocco's new Sahara wall

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has expressed concern over what it described as a dangerous situation created by Morocco's construction of a new defence line in the Western Sahara along the Mauritania border.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday in a statement that Algeria gave total support to Mauritania, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported.

On Friday the Moroccan army announced completion of a "sixth wall" running along the southern border between Mauritania and the former Western Sahara, aimed at denying Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas access to the Atlantic.

"Algeria, which stays in permanent contact with the Mauritania government, is especially attuned to its concern," the statement said.

"It shares Mauritania's evalua-

tion of the dangerous situation created for its territorial integrity and security of its towns and economic installations which are now directly exposed to military operations linked to the conflict imposed on the Western Sahara people."

The statement said Morocco's military action bears the seeds of an escalation dangerous for the peace and stability of the whole region and goes against current efforts for a peaceful solution of the conflict.

Mauritania, linked to Algeria through a 1985 treaty of fraternity and concord, has stated its concern over the presence of foreign troops close to its border in a region of vital economic importance.

A railway line carrying iron ore from the Zouerate Mines to the port of Nouadhibou runs along the border.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	11:00..... News Summary
Tel: 77111-19	11:05..... Evening Show Contd.
	11:10..... News Summary
PROGRAMME ONE	11:15..... Evening Show Continued
15:30..... Koran	11:20..... News Summary
15:50..... Programme Review	11:25..... Evening Show Continued
15:55..... Cartoons and children's programme	11:30..... Close Down

16:35..... Children's programme	BBC WORLD SERVICE
17:30..... Heibol Medication in Africa	639, 720, 1523 KHz
17:50..... Religious programme	
18:20..... Soccer	07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 A Night to Remember 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Through my Window 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:45 Recording of the Week 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Counterpoint 10:00 World News 10:40 24 Hours: News Summary 10:50 Half Hour Drama 11:00 World News 11:49 Reflections 11:55 Training for Tomorrow 12:00 World News 12:49 British Press Review 12:55 Good Books 12:59 Financial News 12:45 Football Centre 13:00 News Summary: Questions of Faith 13:30 Half Hour Drama 14:00 World News 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 Tennis for Tomorrow 14:30 Album Time 15:00 Radio Newswatch 15:15 Hoax 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 You Ain't Heard Notin' Yet 17:00 News Summary 17:45 Hotel du Lac 18:00 Radio Newswatch 18:15 Questions of Faith 18:45 Kings of Swing 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Here's Health! 19:30 Performing Arts Music 20:15 The History of Radio Comedy 20:30 Open Door 20:45 History of Radio Comedy 20:50 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Village Chart Show 02:15 Here's Health! 02:30 Moonshine on Can

PROGRAMME TWO	18:30..... Desert des Namibias
18:35..... L'ecole des dunes	18:40..... News in French
19:15..... L'initiation a l'ordinateur	19:30..... News in Hebrew
19:45..... Economics made easy	20:00..... News in Arabic
20:30..... You Again	21:00..... Beyond 2000
21:10..... Yesterday's Dreams	22:00..... News in English
22:10..... The Unknown War (documentary)	23:10..... Bergesque

RADIO JORDAN	855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
partly on 95.0 KHz. SW	Tel: 77111-19

07:00..... Light Music	11:00..... Follow the Wind
07:30..... Newsdesk	12:00..... News Summary
08:00..... Morning Show	12:05..... 30-Minute Theatre
10:00..... News Summary	13:00..... News Summary
10:05..... Just a Minute	13:05..... Pop Session Contd.
11:00..... News Bulletin	14:00..... News Bulletin
14:30..... Just a Minute	15:00..... Concert Hour
15:00..... News Summary	16:00..... News Summary
16:05..... Instrumentals	16:30..... Old Favourites
17:00..... Men from the Ministry	17:30..... Pop Session
18:00..... News Summary	18:05..... Sports Roundup
18:30..... News Desk	19:00..... News Desk
19:30..... Date with a Star	20:00..... Evening Show

VOICE OF AMERICA	11:00..... News Summary
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz	11:05..... Evening Show Contd.
06:00 News 6:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:40 News 09:10 Newsline 09:20 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 News USA 10:40 News 10:50 Focus 10:55 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:15 Magnifying Glass 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline America 22:30 Music USA 23:00 News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 24:10 World Report	

TODAY'S EVENTS	zsh. Jabel Luvwibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
EXHIBITIONS	Museum's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
	* An art exhibition entitled Byzantines and Omayyads during the early beginning of Islam: Khirbat Es-Samra and El Fediya at the French Cultural Centre (until April 25)
	* An art exhibition by Khalid Al Hameed at the Art Gallery.
	* Children's cartoons at 4:30 p.m., BBC video: 75 minutes at the British Council.

SERVICE CLUBS	Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
	Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
	Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
	Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Club, 7:00 p.m.
	Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CULTURAL CENTRES	Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
	American Centre 644371
	British Council 6361478
	French Cultural Centre 63709
	Goethe Institute 641993
	Soviet Cultural Centre 642049
	Spanish Cultural Centre 639777
	Haya Arts Centre 660195
	Hussein Youth City 6671816
	Y.W.C.A. 641793
	Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
	Amman Municipal Library 637111
	Univ. of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., closed on Friday.
	Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
	Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Oad's (Claret Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).
	Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mena-

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 57200-5, where it should always be verified.
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ARRIVALS	06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	08:00 Agaba (RJ)
	08:30 Kuwait (RJ)
	08:35 Jordan (RJ)
	09:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
	11:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
	11:05 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
	12:35 New York, Vienna (RJ)
	13:40 Athens (RJ)
	15:00 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
	15:05 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
	19:15 Istanbul (RJ)
	20:40 Rome (RJ)
	01:30 Madrid (add.) (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	12:35 Cairo (MS)
	13:30 Moscow (SU)
	14:35 Kuwait (KU)
	16:40 Riyadh (SA)
	17:40 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (VA)
	18:25 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES	07:45 Agaba (RJ)
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	07:45 Rome (RJ)
	12:00 Tripoli (RJ)
	12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
	12:50 Athens (RJ)
	13:05 Madrid (RJ)
	13:40 Geneva, London (RJ)
	13:45 Istanbul (RJ)
	19:30 Rome (RJ)
	21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
	22:15 Damascus (RJ)
	23:00 Bangkok (RJ)

EMERGENCIES	Amman governorate 891228
	Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
	Civil Defence Beirut 21293, 273131
	Civil Defence Queselmech 770733
	Civil Defence Dear Alla 57306
	Ambulance 195, 775111
	Amman downtown fire brigade 198
	First aid 630341
	Blood Bank 778303
	Civil Defence rescue 661111
	Fire headquarters 62209-3
	Police rescue 192, 621111, 637777
	Police headquarters 639141
	Traffic police 896390/1
	Electric Power Co. 636314/4, 648881
	Municipal water complaints 771235-6
	Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 5333040

GENERAL	Jordan Television 77311/19
	Radio Jordan 77411/19
	Ministry of Tourism 642311
	Hotel complaints 666122
	Price complaints 661176
	Telephone information 12
	Jordan and Middle East calls 10
	Overseas calls 17
	Repair service 11

NIGHT DUTY	AMMAN:
	Dr. Ahmad Al Dagg 676433
	Dr. Said Haddadin 637225
	Salim Pharmacy 636730
	Nawab Pharmacy 768232
	Sahel pharmacy 768256
	Khalaf pharmacy 778653
	Hussein pharmacy 845376
	Al Fardaws pharmacy 787336

HOSPITALS	Hussein Medical Centre 81381/32
	Khaldat Maternity, J. Am. 644281/6
	Abdali Maternity, J. Am. 624412/2
	Jabel Amman Maternity 642362
	Malha, J. Amman 636140
	Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
	Shmeisani Hospital 775111/26
	Army Marks 81611/15
	Queen Alia Hospital 602240/39
	Amal Hospital 641535
	Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
	Italian, Al-Muhajra 777101/3
	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafbeh 775111/26
	Army, Madaba 891611/5
	Queen Alia Hospital 602240/39
	Amal Hospital 641535

TAXIS:	Kayali taxi 636730
	Taxis taxi 644600
	Taxis taxi 842474
	Amman taxi 665474
	Raghdan taxi 842400
	Raghdan taxi 736428
	Seyal taxi 776131

BEIRUT:	Dr. Muhammad Al Shara 273670
	Shara's pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:	Dr. Manshab Hijawi 981217
	Ra'ad pharmacy (-)

MARKET PRICES	London 150 / 100
	Manila 380 / 350
	Marrow 150 / 150
	Onion (dry) 150 / 100
	Onion (green) 150 / 100
	Orange 150 / 120
	Orange (Shamouti) 300 / 240
	Pepper (hot) 220 / 160
	Pepper (sweet) 180 / 140
	Potato 130 / 120
	Raddish 190 / 70
	Seach 120 / 100
	Tomato 100 / 70
	Turnip 90 / 60
	Vine leaves 630 / 500

PSD meeting discusses bus accident tragedies

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Public Security Department Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Monday presided over a meeting to discuss means of preventing road accidents which claim the lives of innocent civilians and students. Lt-Gen. Majali called for exerting every possible effort to enforce traffic regulations and for the examination of all buses hired for school trips before issuing permits.

Lt-Gen. Majali also called for a survey on road accidents to

analyse their causes and to take action to avoid future tragedies.

The PSD director also called for closer controls over buses used for trips to make sure they adhere to speed limits and abide by traffic rules.

Monday's meeting was called after the occurrence of many road accidents, the last of which took place last week when a bus on a school trip overturned in Al Mujib area, killing 14 school students and teachers.

W. Bank teachers to receive extra allowances this month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government will start paying extra allowances to teachers and education officials in the occupied Arab territory as of the middle of the coming month, according to a report carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that a committee comprising officials from the Ministries of Education and Occupied Territories Affairs will complete procedures to determine the amounts to be paid to employees within the coming 10 days.

Following this stage the committee will embark on immediate measures for paying the extra allowance which will be retroactive as of the beginning of 1987. According to Petra, the delay in paying the allowance was due to a delay in preparing lists of the names of the teachers and employees who will benefit from the government measure.

A decision to pay the allowances was taken by the government earlier this year in view of the difficult economic conditions in the Israeli-held Arab territory.

Personal effects of Jordanian expatriates exempt from duty

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Customs Department Adel Al Qudab has taken a decision under which the personal effects, used furniture and household appliances of Jordanians working abroad will be exempted from customs duties upon the expatriate's return to Jordan.

The decision, which was communicated to the Omani border point with Saudi Arabia, is in line with the government's policy aimed at providing facilities to Jordanian expatriates.

According to the decision, all personal effects and used household appliances and furniture will be allowed into the country duty free, provided that they are to be for personal use and not for commercial purposes. Benefi-

ciaries can benefit from the exemption facility once only, according to the decision.

The decision named the following items as included in the exemption: one refrigerator, one washing machine, one television set, one gas oven, one electric sweeper, one tape recorder, fan and rug. The decision excluded videos, air-conditioning units, carpets and crystal lamps.

To be eligible for the exemption, a Jordanian working abroad should produce a certificate to the effect that his contract abroad has expired and a certificate that his children, if any, have been accepted at Jordanian schools, a lease contract and a contract with any institution in Jordan.

Symposium suggests higher duties on cigarettes as part of anti-smoking drive

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in a symposium on the dangers of smoking on public health Monday recommended that taxes and duties on locally-produced and imported cigarettes be increased in a drive to encourage people to give up smoking.

The symposium, organised by the Jordanian national anti-smoking society in cooperation with the Ministry of Health's health education department, was held to explain the detrimental effects of smoking on public health.

Participants recommended a number of actions designed to protect citizens from the dangers of smoking. One of the recommendations called for undertaking studies and researches on the harmful effects of smoking. They stressed the right of every non-smoker to protection from pollution caused by smoking and recommended that smoking be forbidden in public places, offices and means of transport. One further recommendation was that

school curricula include facts on the detrimental effects of smoking on health.

They also recommended that promotional advertisements for cigarettes be stopped.

At the end of the meeting, participants formed a special committee to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations.

The Health Ministry is exerting every possible effort to combat smoking because of its danger to society and its negative effects on general public health and the national economy, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said here Monday.

The Health Ministry has turned down all requests and offers from various advertising agencies and companies to put up signs which promote the sale of cigarettes and the press and other media have been cooperative with the Health Ministry by refraining from publishing any cigarette commercials, the health minister said.

Muasher opens exhibition of 23 local chemical industries

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher, who is also honorary president of the Jordanian Chemists' Association, Monday inaugurated an exhibition of Jordanian chemical industries and scientific equipment organised by the association in cooperation with the Housing Bank.

The exhibition, which will run for ten days, includes various chemical products produced by 23 Jordanian chemical industries companies. The exhibition was

held within the association's celebrations of Arab Chemists Day which falls on April 24.

The exhibition coincides with the ninth meeting of the higher council of the Arab Chemists Federation which is due to open at the Amman Plaza Hotel today.

Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad will patronise the three-day meeting which is to discuss a number of subjects of interest to Arab chemists, including the organisation of an Arab chemists conference.

Donors build new school for refugee children in Baqaa

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) school was inaugurated Monday at Baqaa refugee camp in Jordan, according to a press release from the agency.

The school building, which comprises 22 classrooms, two administrative rooms, one multi-purpose room, one library and one laboratory, was donated by Sheikh Ibrahim and Mohammad Al Zaben, two Saudi Arabian businessmen originally from Palestine.

The construction costs amounted to \$500,000. The two-story school accommodates 2,136 pupils in the elementary and preparatory cycles and a teaching staff

of 47 in three storeys of a total area of 2,700 square metres constructed on 3,500 square metres of land.

The opening ceremony was attended by Sheikh Mohammad Al Zaben, senior agency and government officials, and a crowd of guests, including refugee representatives from Baqaa camp which has a population of 68,000 refugees and displaced persons.

Addressing the audience, Mr. E. J. Saaf, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan, paid tribute to the donors for this second donation of theirs — the first being a nearby school for boys which was opened in January 1986 and which cost \$400,000, the release said.



CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Prince Hussein, who was laid to rest on Sunday at the Royal cemetery. Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Cabinet members, senior officials and high ranking army officers attended the funeral. Munkia, daughter of the late King Abdullah II Al

Arab women continue conference with review of AWF's activities, studies

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference of the Arab Women's Federation (AWF) continued in Amman on Monday and reviewed a general report on the federation's activities over the past year, and the AWF's financial situation. The meeting also elected Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir, president of the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), as chairperson of the present meeting which is being attended by delegations from 14 Arab countries. The report discusses the work of the AWF's various sub-committees and the studies conducted over the past year.

The conference was inaugurated on Sunday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor who deputised Her Royal Highness Princess Basma to attend the opening session.

Queen Noor sent an address to

the meeting which was read out on her behalf by Mrs. Bashir and which welcomed the delegates, wishing them success in their endeavours.

The Arab World ought to take practical steps and concert all efforts for the sake of presenting a bright image of Arab women to various world societies, the Queen said in her address.

She said that Arab women continually find themselves confronting challenges and shouldering responsibilities in the course of carrying out their duty as partners in national development and in the general effort to defend their homeland.

What the Arab World is in need of now is a vigorous Arab women's movement operating under the AWF's umbrella, because Arab women are now going through an important stage, Queen Noor said.

Acting Minister of Social Development Muhieddin Al Hussein also made a speech in which he said that the fact that the conference is being held in Amman reflects the concerns the country shows for the status of women in society. The minister paid tribute to the Palestinian and Iraqi women who are helping in the general effort to fend off aggression on the Arab Nation.

Another speaker was Mrs. Manal Yunis from the AWF who outlined the subjects to be taken up by the conference and the programmes which will be carried out by the AWF. Delegates to the conference also voiced the AWF's appreciation and support for Palestinian, Iraqi and Lebanese women who share with Arab men the responsibility of defending their homeland and who continue to endure the negative effects of war and aggression.

Engineers discuss Arab construction sector

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Second Arab Construction Engineering Conference Monday continued its discussions at the University of Jordan under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

In an inaugural address delivered to the conference on Sunday by Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Jawad Al Anani on his behalf, Prince Hassan said that construction and building have secured a substantial portion of the Arab nation's wealth and therefore this sector should be made to reflect the nation's development and help achieve its aspirations and objectives.

Jordan, Prince Hassan said, gives due importance to scientific and technological development in all sectors and continues to drive to promote the use of modern technology in construction which is a basic contributor towards overall development.

The Arab World has made considerable advances in the field of construction but there is a long way to go and perfection should remain our objective in constructing our roads, bridges, schools and hospitals, Prince Hassan said. What is more, the speech continued, manpower employed in the construction business should be developed together with technical facilities in order to achieve the aspired goals. Prince Hassan said that construction projects constitute real national wealth and will benefit future generations and for this reason it is incumbent upon all involved in this sector to do their best to achieve the best possible results and so help fulfil the economic and social aspirations of the nation.

Acting University of Jordan President Dr. Marwan Kamal also addressed the opening session and outlined the university's role in promoting research in construction. He said that the conference is bound to enrich scientific research in the Arab World and enable engineers exchange expertise in construction. The subjects to be discussed at the four-day conference, he said, will cover a host of issues ranging from the employment of computers in construction techniques to the effects of earthquakes and re-inforced concrete used in building.

The secretary general of the conference Dr. Mahmoud Naser told the meeting that between 25 and 40 per cent of total annual investment in Arab projects goes to construction which covers housing, hotels, hospitals, shopping centres, cultural and recreational utilities, industrial installations in addition to irrigation canals, roads, airports, and sea ports.

Princess Basma opens Ma'an community centre

MA'AN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF), Monday stressed the importance of social services and expressed keen interest in upgrading such services.

In her inaugural speech opening the new premises of the Ma'an-based Princess Basma Social Services Centre, Princess Basma highlighted the importance of social services and voluntary work and called for exerting further efforts towards these activities because they contribute to improving community-based services, which Princess Basma continued, are necessary for the social development of the country.

Princess Basma paid tribute to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) for its contribution to

wards constructing the centre and furnishing it and said that such cooperation is a good example of the cooperation which should exist between the private sector and public and private institutions.

Dr. Youssef Attalah, the centre's supervisor, thanked Princess Basma for inaugurating the centre and reviewed the activities it provides to the local community.

Princess Basma then presented 120 girls, who graduated from the various trades and courses offered by the centre, with their diplomas and then toured the various sections of the centre.

The centre was established by the Jordanian Save the Children Fund in cooperation with the QAJSWF and was supported and financed by the IDB. The centre includes a kindergarten, a children's club, library, computer unit and electrical workshop.

PNC opens 18th session

(Continued from page 1)

Saiga, the PFLP-General Command, the Popular Struggle Front and dissidents in Fateh.

"The Palestine National Salvation Front was formed on Feb. 25, 1985, 14 days after the signing of the Amman (Jordan-PLO) accord," Dr. Habash said. "The accord was cancelled yesterday and the PNSF was dismantled," he said.

In a statement issued on Monday, the PLO Executive Committee said it had decided to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord with Jordan and that it would seek a new framework for relations with Jordan, and other Arab countries in the joint struggle to liberate the occupied territories.

Following is the text of the committee statement:

The PLO and the Jordanian government on Feb. 11, 1985, signed an agreement for joint efforts to achieve the common aspirations of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in accordance with Arab and Islamic resolutions contained in the 1982 Fez Arab summit resolution and (this agreement) came after the work of the seven-member Arab committee (entrusted by the Fez summit) to implement (the Fez resolutions) and (the Feb. 11 agreement) was aimed at restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through Arab and international efforts. The agreement was based on general resolutions made by the Palestine National Council (PNC) and in particular decisions taken by the 16th and 17th sessions of the council which emphasised the distinguished brotherly relations between the two peoples... and which called for setting up future relations between the two states (Jordan and Palestine) on the basis of confederal ties and coordinated political efforts to con-

front all unilateral solutions and to foil the "alternate homeland" theory. During the joint (Jordan-PLO) march, disputes emerged in explaining and understanding some of the agreement's concepts and their implementation. What added more (to the disputes) were pressures exerted by the United States and other parties, eventually leading Jordan to suspend political coordination with the PLO and take certain other measures which effectively froze the agreement and created an imbalance in the (Jordan-PLO) relationship.

The Executive Committee of the PLO, from its keenness on maintaining the proper means to implement PNC resolutions which particularly tackled the brotherly relations between Jordanians and Palestinians, in light of its practical experiences, (find that) the agreement has become a stumbling block in further developing these relations since the accord has no physical existence and decide to declare the agreement as null and void.

At the same time the PLO Executive Committee, in the context of its constant policy, will seek to find a new framework for joint efforts with Jordan and other Arab countries to achieve the goals of the joint struggle within the context of a united Arab stand and Arab solidarity to liberate the occupied Arab and Palestinian land and to build Arab unity taking into consideration Arab summit resolutions endorsing the (proposal) for an international conference to be attended by the Soviet Union, the United States and other members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties under U.N. auspices and supervision.

TCC working on new accounting system within first stage of privatisation, Hussein says

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The government-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC), currently in the initial stages of privatisation, expects to complete its new financial and accounting system by April 1988, according to Communications Minister Muhieddin Al Hussein.

With a new accounting order, the TCC will have completed the first phase of a three-part programme involving the change of the organisation's status from a government-run institution into a public-shareholding company.

The TCC "is working on a financial structure," under which its present government accounting method would be transformed into commercial notes and balance sheets as the first step towards changing the corporation into a properly market-oriented commercial entity," Mr. Hussein told local and foreign journalists.

The minister, who is also chairman of the TCC board, made these remarks during the Monday press circle, a weekly event organised by Dr. Mousa Al Keilani, the director of the Press and Publications Department.

The Cabinet last year in principle endorsed the transformation of the TCC into a shareholding company, with the government holding all the shares. At a later stage, it is to be decided whether or not private sector participation would be sought.

The TCC's legal consultants are presently studying the laws and regulations of other Arab countries whose telecommunications organisations underwent a similar transformation in order to draft a new commercial law covering all administrative and financial aspects of the company, to be named "the Telecommunications Company of Jordan."

Once the company's draft law has been completed, the law will be debated in Parliament before a Royal Decree for its enactment is issued. Stage three of the process will entail evaluating TCC's assets based on a profit to capital ratio to determine the value of each share and the number of shares to be divided amongst the public sector.

Mr. Hussein said the whole process of the TCC's transformation would cost no more than JD

100,000. The TCC, which employs almost 4,000 staff, posted JD 42 million in total revenues for 1986, out of which JD 22 million was as net profits.

Even with private participation, the government would retain control over the company's operations. "We will not allow the company to raise charges for any of the services to customers," said the minister.

The transformation, he stressed, would not have any negative consequences on the prices nor on dealings with subscribers. The main drive behind the privatisation scheme was to change the ways under which it (the TCC) functions and to give it flexibility in decision making and taking at a time when the telecommunications industry is undergoing rapid development, he continued.

Commenting on the TCC's decision last December to reduce by 20 to 30 per cent the charges for all international telephone calls and to provide a further special discount rate of up to 50 per cent for calls made during off-peak hours (between 12:00 midnight and 8:00 a.m.), the minister said that the TCC's revenues had dropped by JD 2 million since the cheaper rates were introduced.

He added the volume of phone calls made during off-peak hours should increase by 30 per cent from the present standstill — put at 18 per cent — to allow the TCC cover the JD 2 million decline in expected revenues. The corporation has plans to reconsider organising the internal and national rates for phone calls Mr. Hussein said. "There might be some reductions," he said but did not disclose any figures of percentages regarding domestic phone calls.

According to local telecommunications experts, the relatively high cost for national phone calls was due to the high cost in building internal telecommunications



Muhieddin Al Hussein, Communications Minister, said the TCC will complete its new financial and accounting system by April 1988.

Other figures said the TCC's revenues had dropped by JD 2 million since the cheaper rates were introduced.

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Monday

Al Ra'i: Arab resistance continues

ISRAELI forces on Sunday shelled 14 Lebanese villages in retaliation for resistance activity within the occupied Arab territory. This new aggression on Lebanon, coming in the wake of escalating attacks on Arab people and Arab property in the Syrian Golan Heights and the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, points to one clear fact: That the Arab resistance remains the major source of danger to the Jewish state. These recurrent attacks on the Arabs and repression that Israel has been practising on the Arab inhabitants over the years, could not and will not help to subdue the indigenous population nor can it ever stifle the spirit of struggle for freedom. All Israeli troops and war machinery could not stop the Arabs from carrying on the resistance in all areas occupied by the Israeli forces since 1967. The shelling of 14 Lebanese villages therefore reflects the state of alarm and fear within the Israeli society and the Israeli forces, and manifests the barbaric nature of the Zionists who have been launching one wave of terror after the other. The Israelis have been closing Arab schools and universities, evicting Arab inhabitants from their homeland and destroying Arab-owned property in a bid to force the Arab people to abandon their homes, but the indigenous population have been confronting all these measures with bravery, and increased resistance, and have been struggling to thwart all enemy plans. The resistance in the occupied Arab territory has caused the Israelis to yearn for security and peace they have failed to achieve since their occupation of Arab land.

Al Dustour: PLO unity is essential

THE Palestine National Council opens a meeting in Algiers Monday amidst hopes that the various Palestinian factions will finally arrive at a formula for uniting their forces. Unity among the factions has become essential if the Palestinian resistance movement is to overcome obstacles and pursue the struggle for liberating occupied Arab territory. There is no doubt that any success in uniting the stands and actions of various Palestinian groups will ensure the success of the Algiers meeting which will be a major gain for the Arab World at large. Any divisions within the Palestinian resistance movement can prolong the divisions within the Arab Nation and dissipate efforts by Arab countries. Such divisions have in the past thwarted efforts for convening an Arab summit meeting and rendered the Arab countries weak and incapable of standing up to the challenges and threats. Therefore, Arab masses attach great hope on the council meeting in Algiers and look forward to constructive resolutions that would enhance the Palestinian movement's cooperation with Arab states especially those that are more concerned with the Palestine problem. We realise that the Algiers meeting is seeking unity within the Palestinian movement, but we also hope that this meeting will adopt more realistic strategies acceptable to the Arab countries and the international community at large.

Sawt Al Shaab: PNC session is crucial

THE Palestine National Council (PNC) is meeting in Algiers today in its 18th session, described by many as crucial for Palestinian action. The people of Palestine look to this meeting as one designed to fuse unity among various groups and to unite the resistance factions in the face of continued Israeli repression, and with a view to helping end the ordeal of the Arab people under Israeli occupation. Palestinians inside or outside the occupied territories look with hope to the outcome of the Algiers meeting and they all pray to God that the unity of the Palestinian groups will help the struggle for ending Israel's occupation and not achieve unity at the expense of the Arab people still suffering under Israeli rule. We do not wish to see the Palestinian movement in continuous disarray, nor do we wish to see the Palestinian people continuing to suffer at the hands of the Israeli troops and settlers. We hope that the Algiers meeting will pave the way for the Palestinians to achieve peace and justice and exploit the present moment in which we witness unanimous support and backing from the international community for a durable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The PNC is called on to translate the aspirations of the Palestinian people into practice and to give more consideration to the future of the Palestinian land and its people.

Sunday's

Al Ra'i: Israeli repression

NOW that the Israeli authorities have decided to close Bethlehem and Birzeit universities at least 12,000 students will remain without classes for some time. The pretext for closing these educational institutions together with the Al Najah college and the Gaza University is that there were fears that students might launch anti Israeli protests and cause disturbance. The Israeli move followed an earlier decision to build cement walls around refugee camps in the occupied territory in a bid to stifle the spirit of resistance among the Arabs. Twenty years of occupation have not been able to quell the struggle of the Palestinians for liberation and freedom, and the new Israeli measures provide further proof that the Israelis have failed to subdue the Palestinians and kill their steadfastness and resistance spirit. The more cruel Israel becomes the more hardened will be Arab determination for resistance and for thwarting enemy plans. The closure of the universities and the detention of Arab citizens and the demolition of homes can never end the resistance in the occupied land; and the Palestinians will no doubt continue their drive to liberate their homeland.

Al Dustour: Tindemans ends tour

BELGIAN Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans has just completed a tour of Arab capitals on behalf of the European Community nations; and his move represented one more step towards achieving peace and justice in the Middle East. The 12-member community issued a declaration in Brussels last February endorsing the idea of an international conference to bring about peace to the Middle East, but the community has a long way to go to help convene this conference and many obstacles to remove before the aspired objective can be achieved. Mr. Tindemans has heard Arab views which appreciated the European Community's stand and also heard Arab leaders urging Europe to take practical steps to end Israel's occupation of Arab land. We will not await Europe's moves to end this conflict and lead the Arabs and the Israelis to peace. We hope that the European Community will translate the Brussels declaration into practice, and convene the long-awaited conference that would help bring us peace.

The View From Second Circle

The PNC and Qalqilya's trees

By Rami G. Khouri

AFTER the petrol bomb attack that killed a Jewish settler near Qalqilya village last week, there was a chorus of indignation from within Israeli society that demanded two rather interesting things: a) that more Jewish settlers be moved into the West Bank, and b) that the orange trees that line some of the roads be cut down, to make the roads more secure for Jewish settlers. How intriguing, I thought to myself, and how simple: Just cut down all the trees, and there won't be any place for a Palestinian to hide, and to use as a shelter from which to hurl petrol bombs at Israelis who have taken his land.

But then I thought: hasn't this been tried before around here? Our land is very old, and our people's attachment to it is ancient. How many others have come to Palestine or Jordan in the past several thousand years, implanted themselves as rulers by the force of arms, and tried to protect themselves from the native population by actions that were the functional equivalent of cutting down all the trees along the sides of the roads?

Our occupiers have been numerous, but all finally left the area. The Persians and Babylonians were our rulers once, as were the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. The Byzantine empire and the Ottomans also controlled our lands in centuries past, as did the Crusaders for about 200 years, but they left also. They may not have cut down all the roadside trees, as the Israelis wish to do today, but they also had to pay attention to securing their safety along the main communications routes. The ancient roads and caravan routes in Jordan and Palestine are crowded with adjacent forts, watchtowers, castles and lookout posts — all of which were designed mainly to patrol the roads and keep the land safe for the ruling political power of the day. It is no surprise that the Israelis should have the same concerns in Palestine today. But will they succeed any more than did their predecessors in the region, who also sought to stamp their control on the indigenous populations by the age-old combination of the strength of force and the appeal of material gain if one remains quiet and docile. Whatever the Persians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Crusaders and Ottomans did to handle the people of Qalqilya, it did not work. The people of Qalqilya, and all of Palestine, are still making trouble for those who would occupy them, and deny them a political identity.

So what's so surprising? What should the people of Qalqilya do about Jewish settlers? Send them flowers for Passover? Throw them a good neighbour party?

The continuing violent resistance in Palestine comes just as the

Palestine National Council is meeting in Algiers, and the juxtaposition of the two events is worth assessing. The acts of the Palestinians on the land are ancient, universal acts of political self-expression, national self-defence and reflexive resistance. Like the orange trees, they spring forth from the land naturally, organically, when the ingredients are all in place.

But the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers is not such an ancient tradition. Independent, genuine Palestinian political leaderships are not very evident in the history of the area. This is probably why the PLO has had its ups and downs during the past two decades, sometimes taking centre stage in the Arab World, sometimes quietly licking its wounds on the sidelines, usually under the protection of some willing Arab state. It is because the PLO represents the Palestinian will to be free, sovereign, self-determinant and secure within one's own country that it has often placed a higher imperative on its political status as an organisation than it has on achieving tangible diplomatic progress through a process of compromise.

I am at once sad and proud to see the PLO going through the motions of yet another reconciliation, national dialogue and "historic" PNC meeting that brings all the Palestinian factions together again. I am sad because the spectacle becomes less endearing every time it is performed, for it seems to lose just a little bit of relevance with every performance. But I am proud because the PLO and its component parts refuse either to fade away into insignificance, or unilaterally bow to the demands of those who would presume to advise it.

The PLO has never had it easy. It has always had to struggle against formidable foes in the Israeli-American camp, and simultaneously has had to work hard to maintain its independence from Arab parties. It is worth noting, this time around, that the PLO is still independent, still meeting, still stressing national dialogue and unity, still emphasising its willingness to negotiate peace at an international conference and still — as it was in Amman in 1984 during the previous PNC — clinging to the principle of the independence of decision-making tighter than a baby monkey clings to its mother's shoulders. The PLO elicits great pride among Palestinians and other Arabs precisely because it is seen to be committed to a principle of national rights for the Palestinian people that is sacred, it still far from being translated into reality. The PLO will not liberate Palestine by force of arms. But then, the Israelis will not pacify the Palestinians by cutting down their trees, either.

So we have something of a draw in the ancient land of Palestine, land of many conquerors and perpetual Palestinian/Arab resistance. But the draw is considerably more comfortable for the Israelis — who have a state — than it is for the Palestinians, who just finished watching another national nightmare in their folk being starved in refugee camps in Beirut, and their women being shot to death one by one as they tried to leave the camps to buy food for their families.

Given this reality, what is the full meaning of Palestinian factions who refuse to meet one another unless certain "political" conditions are met beforehand, or agreements abrogated, or contacts with Arab states terminated? Is this a graduate seminar in political theory, or is this the destiny of a people that is closer to seeing its national rights recognised globally than ever before in its history, and that is also being killed in ever greater numbers by both Israeli and Arab parties because of the lack of a political settlement?

Will we — Palestinians and Arabs — look to history as a source of strength that sustains us, that reminds us that we have been occupied many times before by much stronger foes, but have always achieved freedom in the end? Or will we use history as moral camouflage, to hide our weaknesses and sanctify our failures?

There is an urgent need for the PNC and Qalqilya to meet, for history and politics to wed, and to produce an offspring named diplomacy, who in turn could achieve freedom and sovereignty. A spirit of enduring popular resistance and a commitment to a national political leadership are both vital elements in the Palestinian struggle. They both exist today, and both attest to the reality and durability of the Palestinian identity. But that's what we were saying in the early seventies, a decade and a half ago, and we seem to be waving the same flags again today. And the thousands who have died in the meantime — do we attribute them to the fact that ours is a historical struggle of greater dimensions than a single generation, a single person or a single political faction?

I am continuously proud of the PLO, and its resilience and its durability. I am proud of the people of Qalqilya, who honour freedom and fight to achieve it. But I am not proud to be stuck in a draw with the Israelis, at a time when virtually the entire world accepts my right to self-determination, sovereignty and security. For the PNC, in such circumstances, to effect a national reconciliation is admirable, but insufficient. Political unity among the PLO factions is impressive. But PLO diplomatic breakthroughs would be more impressive. Let us hope the PNC meeting builds on unity, instead of only achieving it.

Refugee relief committee decries intolerance of West

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In 1986, as the United States celebrated the centenary of the statue of liberty and its pledge of shelter for oppressed people, congress defeated a bill that would have granted asylum to Central Americans fleeing civil strife in their homeland.

Three hundred years after Roman Catholic France exiled tens of thousands of protestant Huguenots, Western Europe clamped down on Third World immigrants with measures the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees called defensive and repressive.

"The World Refugee Survey" for 1986, published by the U.S.

Committee for Refugees, catalogues such grim ironies while deploring an increasing tendency for Western nations to blame economic and political problems on the victims — an estimated 11.7 million refugees.

The Committee, a private non-profit organisation based in Washington, offers glimmers of hope, saying the ouster of repressive governments in the Philippines, Haiti and Uganda in 1986 may reverse the tide of people fleeing those nations.

"Particularly in the case of Uganda, refugees are already returning in significant numbers," it said.

Pirate attacks on Vietnamese boat people continued to decline, although the reasons were un-

clear. Refugees are learning to avoid pirates, but Thailand is also making progress in anti-piracy efforts, the Committee said.

In most nations, however, the Committee sees governments turning their backs to those trying to flee poverty and political brutality.

Vietnam and the United States allowed the orderly departure programme to collapse last year. Vietnam also refuses to release re-education camp prisoners, some detained for 12 years, or end its occupation of Kampuchea.

"Torture is widespread but, often overlooked because victims suppress the memory of it and are reluctant to discuss their experiences,"

A 1984 survey of 98 troubled

refugees from South East Asia who were clients of a social adjustment project in St. Paul, Minnesota found that 61 per cent said they had been tortured in the previous decade, the Committee noted.

The rehabilitation centre for torture victims in Copenhagen has a long waiting list after being swamped by the number of torture victims requiring treatment from among the several thousand refugees arriving in Denmark yearly.

Political persecution is unabated, but governments seem less willing to shelter the victims.

Amnesty International lobbied in the United States for passage of a bill that would have extended safe haven in the United States to Salvadorans fearing political retribution in their own country, where civilians are caught between right-wing death squads and leftist guerrillas. Congress defeated the bill in 1985 and 1986.

Western Europe, "spawned in part by growing militant racism and xenophobia, severely curtailed asylum, particularly for those from the Third World," the Committee said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Jean-Pierre Hocke, said last year that European gov-

ernments, faced with increasing tides of refugees, "have reacted with refugee policies which are of a defensive or even a repressive nature."

In addition to overt attempts to limit immigration, the Committee sees "limitation on the right of residence, accommodation, employment, social welfare benefits, counselling and advice services, areas of provision crucially important in the early days of reorientation and adjustment in a new environment."

The retreat from a humanitarian attitude is evident in the debate in Western Europe over whether Sri Lankans, Iranians, Palestinians, Lebanese and Ghanaians fall outside the 1951 Geneva Convention and 1967 Protocol on Refugees, the Committee said.

Some argue that only people who face individual persecution may be granted asylum, and that those who flee the collective oppression of war, economic chaos or genocidal attacks on ethnic groups are not covered by the convention.

The U.S. government funds Afghan, Angolan, Kampuchean and Nicaraguan rebel movements against leftist governments, perpetuating conflicts that create more refugees, even though

America again led the world in contributions to refugee aid and resettlement agencies, with 231.1 million dollars, the study said.

The Soviet Union continues to curtail emigration. However, since the report was compiled, emigration has increased, and Soviet officials say they are reviewing the cases of more Jews who wish to emigrate.

South Africa's apartheid policy of racial segregation has led to the creation of impoverished black townships, squalid segregated townships and squatter camps, all dependent on the goodwill of neighbouring white areas. Thousands of Mozambicans also infiltrate South Africa monthly to seek jobs, braving minefields, and electrified fence and South African soldiers.

Thailand is repatriating asylum-seekers from communist-ruled Laos along parts of its border and closed the Khao I Dang refugee camp because no other nation would accept its population for resettlement.

Civil war rages in El Salvador, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nicaragua and South Africa, while the latter also perpetrates cross-border raids into Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Human rights seen as major issue in Turkey's EC bid

By Paul Bolding
Reuters

ANKARA — Doubts about Turkey's commitment to democracy and about its human rights record will play a major role in the debate over its application for European Community (EC) membership, diplomats and politicians say.

Many Turkish intellectuals hope, however, that the prospect of joining, if distant, will itself provide a guarantee for democracy in a country where the military has overthrown civilian government three times in 30 years.

Concern centres on political laws that permit trials on political charges like "seeking the supremacy of one class over another," an electoral law seen to favour Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party and on banning orders on thousands of politicians issued after the last coup in 1980.

The 1987 U.S. State Department report on human rights in Turkey notes repeated allegations of torture of detainees, restrictions on trade union rights and repression of the Kurdish language, the native tongue of a fifth of Turkey's population.

"There are many things that are not compatible. A good deal needs to change and probably will

change," said a senior EC diplomat.

Ozal himself came to power in elections in 1983 which were heavily influenced by the military and the envoy said the progress of Turkey's application would depend on what happens after the next elections, due in November 1988 at the latest.

Ozal told EC ambassadors at a meeting to explain the decision to make the application, formally presented in Brussels on April 14, that democracy was already working in Turkey.

"Therefore Turkey needs... encouragement in order to further consolidate and strengthen democracy and respect for human rights," he added.

Ugur Mumcu, a columnist on the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet, was pessimistic about this point. "Unless we are able to achieve democracy in our own right, what good will the EC do?" he wrote.

The liberal Daily Milliyet, in an editorial, approved of the application but listed human rights restrictions that would have to be lifted and said military rule would have to be foregone as a future panacea. "We have a very difficult job ahead of us but we shall have to persevere," it said.

Cumhuriyet launched a campaign last week to highlight the

cases of hundreds of peoples, including defendants in political trials, who are denied possession of a passport to travel abroad.

The main opposition Social Democratic Populist Party also backs the decision to apply for EC membership but says Ozal has not done enough to improve human rights in preparation for the move.

"The government is not well enough prepared in terms of liberties," said spokesman Tugay Altan. "This may lead to reluctance on the part of the EC, but in principle we do not oppose the application."

It is broadly accepted here that Turkey has a right to join the community — even though it is located mostly in Asia and its population is 99 per cent Muslim — not least because it is accepted as a member of NATO.

But the left-leaning weekly Yeni Gundem concluded for its cover story last week after talking to many Turkish intellectuals that "We are not European."

It cited principally cultural and religious differences and added: "Many people believe that democracy is more a question of tradition and culture than a set of rules."

Turkey, it said, did not meet the minimum democratic requirements for the community

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John in 1980

African smallholders prove their worth

by John Montagu

LONDON, England — When Zimbabwe attained majority rule, there were dire warnings from some British backbench MPs that the post-colonial economy would collapse. But such fears have proved to be unfounded, especially in agriculture, thanks to the startling success of Zimbabwe's peasant farmers.

Mr. Denis Norman, Zimbabwe's Minister of Agriculture from 1980 to 1985, recently told an audience in the House of Commons, London, that there had been a record harvest year in his country, with 55 per cent of the maize crop coming from small-holders. Before 1980, under the white minority administration, small farmers' returns were hardly considered worth recording.

Maize production has increased ten-fold over the past seven years, topping 800,000 tonnes in 1985. Cattle and oilseeds on smallholdings have also shown encouraging results. The total value of peasant agriculture — measured as crops delivered and paid for — rose from 3.7 million Zimbabwean dollars in 1980 to 54 million in 1985.

Zimbabwe's success in stimulating the smallholder sector and destroying the myth of peasants as drought-bound and resistant to change should have enormous repercussions both in Africa and elsewhere. Not least, it could revive the confidence of foreign donor governments and aid agencies in the aftermath of famine.

The evidence shows that Zimbabwean smallholders did not succumb out of any revolutionary fervour, nor in order to please new political masters, but rather

because they received practical encouragement. According to Mr. Norman, price was the greatest motivating force, but there were other incentives such as tax rebates and cheap fertiliser. Systematic back-up by the agricultural lending and marketing agencies — with regular visits by field inspectors — was another important factor.

As another season comes round, the setting of farm prices after a year of surplus will be accompanied by acute heart-searching by economists and officials. The risk that smallholders who subsist on communal (formerly Tribal Trust) land will be the first to suffer from lower prices and the lack of storage and grain security during the coming year is an all too familiar cycle in Africa's dry lands.

However, Zimbabwe's food surplus problem may be transformed into a cure for other people's famine. Moving some of Zimbabwe's surpluses into areas of shortage in neighbouring countries, such as Mozambique, could help clear the decks and boost prices. Last November, the Zimbabwean Grain Marketing Board was said to have 2.3 million tonnes of maize in silos and depots, and grain producers themselves have appealed abroad for funds to pay for emergency shipments into Mozambique.

Increasingly, such operations within Africa are receiving encouragement from the European Economic Community (EEC). The EEC has its own food mountains to worry about, yet it is trying to persuade its member governments not to add to Africa's problems by dumping its own surpluses in the form of inappropriate or harmful food aid.

Under the EEC's new policy of what is called "triangular" assistance, European funding has been used to finance the transfer of food within, rather than into Africa, and Zimbabwe has been one of the beneficiaries.

"What we need is not food aid, but aid to grow food," said Mr. Norman. Aid to agriculture — and especially to small holders — will remain an important priority for a government which believes that agriculture has been often overlooked.

The need for "aid to grow food" applies to other drought-prone regions of Africa, including the Sahel belt, where a proper balance between food aid and development aid for agriculture is crucial to the subsistence farmer. It is not an easy balance to obtain. Frequently, the arrival of food aid too late has been a poor and even crippling substitute for financial assistance, because of the damage it does to local grain markets and farmers.

In contrast, governments and international aid agencies have recently been looking to the voluntary sector for effective ways of supporting subsistence farmers. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have scored successes by working closely with local farmers' associations and village groups, effectively creating a parallel structure of development.

An interesting example is found among the Naam village groups of the arid Yatenga region of Burkina Faso, which have received backing from the British agencies Christian Aid and Oxfam. The Naam groups trace their roots back to the old Burkinabe tradition of post-harvest sharing. They were revived in the late

1960s by a former government official, who recognised the high motivation and quick results that such groups can achieve.

One group of 27 members has transformed a one-hectare plot at Sillia from desert into individual gardens. The plot is fenced and watered from hand-dug wells. Dry-season crops and vegetables are grown, the produce helping to repay a six-year loan for tools, seeds and materials.

In Senegal, one of the most vigorous indigenous NGOs is the Amicale de Walo, near St. Louis: an association which has championed the cause of rice farmers along the Senegal River, who have been harassed by the state marketing monopoly. Though active in 90 village groups, the Amicale itself has remained small-scale and basically self-financing. However, it seeks loan credit for such things as irrigation pumps and rice mills from overseas aid agencies.

Such activities are becoming more attractive to aid agencies and some governments, which have been disillusioned by their experiences with many big and costly schemes. In the past, funds for large-scale projects were often too easily available, but got in the way of real social and economic development, which would help the poorest.

A growing number of governments in Africa are realising that they must work at the level of the majority of the people whom they are meant to serve, with or without the help of the voluntary sector. Here they could learn a lot from the experience in Zimbabwe, where small-holders have been given the recognition and support they deserve — a far-sighted feature.

Earth's centre is hotter than sun's surface

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

PASADENA, California — The centre of the earth is hotter than the sun's surface, with temperatures of thousands of degrees higher than once thought, say scientists who used diamonds and guns to mimic pressures at the planet's core.

Earth's inner core has a temperature of about 12,420 degrees F (6,880 C), compared with previous estimates of 4,900 to 6,700 degrees (2,700 to 3,700 C), scientists from the University of California at Berkeley and the California Institute of Technology reported in the journal Science.

The surface temperature of the sun is about 10,400 F (5,760 C), said Thomas J. Ahrens, a co-author of the study and geophysics professor at Caltech in Pasadena.

The researchers used diamonds, rubies, laser beams and special bullets to compress and heat iron so they could determine the melting point of iron in

earth's inner core, where pressure is 22 million kilograms per square inch, or 3.3 million times earth's atmospheric pressure at sea level.

The finding is surprising because it suggests the core, not the overlying mantle, is the source of much of the heat that makes huge plates of the earth's crust slide over its surface in a process called continental drift or plate tectonics, Ahrens said.

"Thus, the forces that drive the plates and give rise to earthquakes and volcanoes have their origins in the earth's core," he said. "This provides us strong insight into how the earth works."

Earth's outermost layer, the crust, is about 7.2 kilometres thick below oceans and 40 kilometres thick beneath continents. Under the crust is the mantle, which is about 2,865 kilometres thick.

Below the mantle is the molten iron outer core, which is about 2,270 kilometres thick. The inner core, which is solid despite high temperatures because it is under so much pressure, has a diameter

of 2,400 kilometres, Ahrens said. The scientists calculated temperatures of about 12,420 F (6,880 C) for the inner core, 11,900 F (6,590 C) for the boundary between the inner and outer core and 8,640 F (4,780 C) for the outer core-mantle boundary.

Berkeley graduate student Quentin Williams and geologist-geophysicist Raymond Jeanloz determined iron's high-pressure melting point by sandwiching a thin film of iron between two layers of ruby, then squeezing the sandwich between diamond anvils while heating the iron with a laser beam.

At Caltech, Ahrens, visiting geophysicist Jay Bass and graduate student Robert Svendsen determined the melting point of iron at the inner-core boundary by melting iron under higher pressures. They created such pressures by using powerful guns to shoot bullets made of plastic and metal at 16,000 mph (25,750 km/h) into a thin iron film.

Their findings were corrected to account for the fact that earth's core isn't pure iron and that the

inner core is a few hundred degrees hotter than the outer-inner core boundary.

Ahrens said previous estimates of core temperatures were extrapolations based on measured temperatures of lava from the mantle.

The newly calculated core temperatures suggest the boundary between the mantle and outer core acts like a pressure cooker. The boundary keeps much of the core's heat in but allows enough to escape to make the mantle boil slowly in a process called convection, in which hot rock rises and colder rock sinks.

The new studies support the theory that earth's plates drift because of convection in the entire mantle, Ahrens said. Other researchers have argued only the upper mantle boils.

The calculated core temperatures are too high to have been generated by decay of radioactive elements, suggesting the heat was generated 4.6 million years ago when earth formed from the collision of gas, dust and larger chunks of material that made up the early solar system, he said.

High-tech challenge typifies the race between economic superpowers

By Charles J. Hanley
The Associated Press

PRINCETON, New Jersey — Quietly, away from the headline battles over trade, some of the best minds in America and Japan are contending for a 21st-century prize, technological leadership in a high-tech world.

At research centres in Japan and the United States, hundreds of scientists and engineers each day push the "high end" of computer technology, in a race to build the fastest and smartest machines.

"It's a scientific revolution. ... There's a lot at stake. And the Japanese are very tough competitors," says Joseph F. Traub, who runs the national supercomputer centre in Princeton.

For Japan, the race is a crucial test, to see whether its clockwork economy, master of manufacturing technique, can now shift gears and take charge in the most advanced of high technologies.

Success means dominance of global information industries, and that means world economic leadership in the coming decades. American industrial competitiveness may be on the line. But a more tangible goal seems to inspire the U.S. effort: To keep several steps ahead of the Soviets in developing futuristic "smart" weapons.

Except for space, "it is more important that the United States retain world leadership in this area than in any other," said Don Fuqua, the recently retired chairman of the House of Representatives' science and technology committee.

The U.S. and Japanese research concentrates on two areas: — Stepping up the speed and developing new applications for the ultra-fast supercomputers.

— Designing "artificial intelligence" systems, computers that grasp and solve problems with human efficiency.

The immense calculating power of supercomputers, which now cost up to \$20 million each, is used by meteorologists to swiftly predict weather, by oilmen to draw up intricate geological maps, by chemists to test molecular combinations in the search for

new drugs. Machines with artificial intelligence, on the other hand, can recognise images, understand human speech and provide expert advice in areas ranging from medical diagnosis to factory maintenance.

The military uses of both appear boundless. Supercomputers are now used to design nuclear weapons and jet fighters, and to crack intelligence codes and advise commanders how to deploy naval vessels. Computers with artificial intelligence could direct robot tanks or take electronic command of President Ronald Reagan's proposed Star Wars missile defence.

The two fields are merging in some ways. Supercomputers have been based on traditional step-by-step computation, through a single powerful central processing unit. They grow faster through advances in miniaturisation — more electronic circuits are jammed into the same area.

Researchers in artificial intelligence focus on "parallel processing," using thousands of small processors in a single machine to work simultaneously on parts of a computational problem. Supercomputer specialists have now begun to adapt this "architecture" to their high-speed machines.

The Japanese, busy catching up in basic computer manufacturing, did not join in supercomputer and artificial intelligence development until the early 1980s.

They did it in a characteristically Japanese way, announcing crash programmes under the guidance of Tokyo's powerful ministry of international trade and industry. More than \$1 billion in

Japanese government and corporate funds is going into the effort.

The U.S. government responded with its own programme — the Pentagon's strategic computing initiative, projected to spend \$1.2 billion over 10 years and four university supercomputer centres, financed by an estimated \$600 million from the National Science Foundation, state governments and private industry.

The handful of American supercomputer manufacturers — led by Cray Research and Control Data — still design and build the machines. But hundreds of researchers now linked to the university centres are exploring new uses for them.

In the cool quiet of the Princeton centre's 8,000-square-foot computer room, a control data Cyber 205 silently searches for oil, explodes gases in an automobile engine cylinder, causes galaxies to collide — all through electronic simulation.

"After Galileo and Newton," Traub told a reporter, "this is the third great revolution, computational science — science not in the laboratory, but in the computer."

The Cyber 205 operates at 400 "megaflops" — a speed of 400 million operations per second. By this summer the year-old centre, which is sponsored by a 12-university consortium, will have a supercomputer that will churn out the work at 10 billion operations per second — 10 gigaflops.

Made by a control data spinoff company called Etc, that machine will be 250,000 times faster than today's personal computers, so fast it must be kept cool in a liquid nitrogen bath. Across the Pacific in Japan,

gigaflop supercomputers are now being produced by Fujitsu and NEC, two of six giant electronics companies in Japan's "super-speed" project.

The artificial intelligence work, meanwhile, is concentrated at the Institute for New Generation Computer Technology, a think tank of 70 researchers who have taken over one floor of a Tokyo skyscraper.

The director, internationally noted computer scientist Kazuhiro Fuchi, said the institute is grappling with broad theory, not applications.

"We are trying to build a new technology... new architecture. From there, industry can find applications," Fuchi said.

He listed possibilities: Computer comprehension of the spoken and written word, perfecting language-translation systems, extending databases to "knowledge bases," a more complex system endowing computers with common-sense attributes.

Who's ahead in the race? "In computer science, the United States at the moment is far ahead of Japan," said Fuchi. Others agree.

On supercomputers, specialists say U.S. companies are "light years ahead" in software, the variety of programming needed to apply computer speed to specific tasks.

As for pure speed, one knowledgeable American official noted that code-cracking, highly secretive U.S. National Security Agency "certainly must have the most powerful machines around."

In artificial intelligence, the combination of a headstart, Pentagon money and the creativity of small high-tech entrepreneurs — a breed rare in Japan — give the United States at least a two-year edge in applications, the experts say.

But some Americans clearly are worried. They remember how a crash programme in the 1970s vaulted Japan into world leadership in semiconductor, the basic components of computers.

"The United States has consistently, but consistently, underestimated the Japanese," said Traub.

Fears subside that opera could damage fragile temple

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

LUXOR, Egypt — Three millennia after this ancient capital's golden age, Spanish tenor Placido Domingo and a cast of 1,500 will perform "Aida" at Luxor temple, the place Giuseppe Verdi reputedly was thinking of when he wrote the opera.

But for those who safeguard Egypt's heritage, there's far more at stake than the success of the 10-performance run, which is to feature the grandest "Grand March" in Aida history. Their job is to ensure that the opera and an expected 30,000 or more visitors will leave the alluring but fragile temple unscathed.

The opera tells the tale of a doomed love affair between a pharaoh's son and an Ethiopian slave girl. Fawzi Mitwali, the chief organiser of the performance, insisted that "Aida" must be performed at the temple that he said Verdi was thinking of when he wrote it.

But insistence on Luxor temple brought Mitwali, an Egyptian-born entrepreneur who has lived 30 years in Vienna, Austria, into immediate conflict with antiquities authorities and Egyptologists.

They expressed concerns that the project could intensify forces slowly eroding ageless stories from the stone walls of Luxor temple. But Mitwali got permission for the opera that debuts May 2.

Now, the din of Italian, British and Egyptian workers penetrates into the temple's darkened inner sanctums where the boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun, the warrior King Ramses II and the Macedonian conqueror Alexander the Great paused to pray.

The temple is not the most grandiose in a city where monuments are as common as houses, but it is considered a pearl among Egypt's antique treasures. Preparations for the opera proceed at the temple under the supervision of 15 Egyptologists, engineers and architects sent from Cairo.

"Every step taken by the Aida technicians must be approved by us," said Ahmad Abd Al Rady, public relations director in Luxor for the Egyptian antiquities organisation. "Nothing is escaping our scrutiny."

In late March, President Hosni Mubarak took time out from campaigning for April 6 parliamentary elections to inspect the temple grounds and see for himself that it was not threatened by the opera.

Egyptologists who expressed early fears for Luxor temple's safety when the project was announced now say they are satisfied that Mitwali's crew is taking adequate precautions.

The experts supervise every aspect of construction and wiring to ensure nothing damages the

temple or monuments. They also make sure nothing is moved from its original spot, and that construction proceeds around artifacts.

Last week, antiquities officials halted work on a lighting system when technicians began placing the lights in front of each sphinx on the avenue of the sphinxes. Officials feared heat from the lights could damage the statues by causing them to "sweat."

But they allowed technicians to continue putting up the lights after they were assured the lights had filters to eliminate excessive heat.

"Everybody here is now aware of Luxor temple's problems, and people are working hard for its safety," said Dr. Lanny Bell, field director of the University of Chicago's Chicago House. "I must say I'm impressed."

Chicago House was founded in 1924 to record decaying monuments in Luxor and across the Nile on the river's west bank. Bell and other Chicago House specialists spent 12 years documenting the fading columns of Luxor temple. He was an early critic of Aida because of the fragility the survey identified.

"Luxor has the largest concentration of monuments of any city in the world," said Bell.

Many, he said, are deteriorating dangerously, mainly because the Aswan High Dam to the south has made the water table rise. "Salts that were part of the temples' limestone blocks have been forced out," Bell said. "Beautiful images and structures and statuary itself are flaking or even exploding."

"Of all the monuments here, with all their problems, Luxor temple is suffering the most." Luxor temple's rise 3,400 years ago coincided with the peak of power and riches for the pharaohs.

The stories of their hopes and exploits were told in towering obelisks, on columns topped by carved papyrus buds that seemed to touch the sky and in open staterooms and subtle smiles of mammoth statues.

The centuries brought change. In the 1200s a mosque was built among the pharaonic ruins. Six hundred years later, one of two red granite obelisks commissioned by Ramses II left to adorn the place De La Concorde in Paris. Two seated statues of Ramses II were shipped to the Louvre.

Luxor temple for the most part remained buried in sand until the end of the 19th century, when Egyptologists exposed its beauty once again to the world.

Work began in recent decades to recover a 1½-mile-long avenue of human-headed sphinxes linking the temple with the much bigger and better-known Karnak complex.



German 4-megabit chip stores 20 newspaper pages

BONN (Dad) — Federal Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber (above) was plainly pleased to be presented with the prototype of a miracle of microminaturisation: a 91-square-millimetre microchip with a storage capacity of over four megabits. A single fingernail-sized silicon semiconductor can store the equivalent of 250 typewritten pages or 20 pages of newspaper.

Jointly developed by R & D engineers at Siemens of the Federal Republic of Germany and Philips of Holland, the new chip has bridged the gap between Europe and Japan. This target was not scheduled until next year. The new four-megabit chips can supervise and control complex industrial processes and handle documentation and archiving of large amounts of information or keep data on the move in large computers. They can also be used in medical technology, in pollution-controlled motor vehicles and in industrial energy-saving.

Herr Riesenhuber saw them as "an important step in the direction of European self-assertion." The German Federal government invested DM 320 million in development of the four-megabit chip. The Dutch government chipped in a further DM 160 million. Overall R & D expenditure, met mainly by Siemens and Philips, has amounted to DM 3.4 billion. In addition to the computer uses of the new superchip, jobs will be created to manufacture it at Siemens in Regensburg and at a Philips in Hamburg and The Netherlands.

It can only be manufactured in a sterile environment. The utmost precision and cleanliness are so unless the workshops are virtually antiseptic. A few specks of dust are enough to ruin the new chip.

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Mikkola wins Safari Rally

NAIROBI (R) — Hannu Mikkola won Kenya's Safari Rally in an Audi 200 Quattro Monday, ending his 15-year wait for a second triumph in the 4,000-km world championship event.

The Audi works team, which skipped last year's Safari Rally, had the added satisfaction of seeing Mikkola's teammate Walter Roehrl of West Germany take second place in an identical 200 Quattro, 17 minutes behind the leader.

After the finish in Nairobi, Mikkola said the most worrying moment was when the air intake on his turbocharger fell off on Saturday in the Central Rift Valley.

"We changed everything but when the engine didn't start... We

lost 30 minutes and were pretty upset for a while," the Finnish driver said.

Mikkola went off the road only once, when a sudden cloudburst near Lake Victoria sent his car skidding off into the bushes on the side of the muddy track.

At that stage he was fighting for first place with title-holder Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden, who dropped out Sunday when his Toyota Supra developed engine trouble in the Taita Hills south east of Nairobi.

Swede Kenneth Eriksson in a

Volkswagen Golf GTI took up the challenge for the lead but ground to a halt Sunday night with clutch failure on the final run into Nairobi.

Waldegard's teammate, Lars Erik Torph of Sweden, salvaged the reputation of Toyota's powerful three-litre Supras, clinching third place 34 minutes behind the second Audi despite suffering from a high fever for the first two days of the event.

This year's event was a radical departure from previous rallies after the International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) excluded the highly specialised Group B cars and limited the event to vehicles which closely resemble standard models.

Mikkola said the change made

the rally more of a challenge. "Now you have to make the best of what you have... With the Group B cars you could plan what you need," he said.

The organisers noted that the Finn's Audi Quattro was the first four-wheel drive vehicle to win the competition which began in 1953.

Experts had predicted that the four-wheel drives would fare well only if conditions were wet. Most of the course stayed unexpectedly dry and dusty.

The course this year took the 53 entrants north around Mount Kenya, through the northern Samburu district, west to the shores of Lake Victoria and then south east to within 100 km of the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa.

Graf wins WITA final

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla (R) — Seventeen-year old Steffi Graf won her fourth straight title of 1987 when she beat Hana Mandlikova 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the Women's International Tennis Association Championships.

The top-seeded Graf did not lose a single set in this \$300,000 event and extended her 1987 unbeaten streak to 22 matches. The number two ranked player in the world earned \$40,000 for her victory.

Mandlikova, the second-seeded Czechoslovak, collected \$18,000 as runner-up.

Graf started strong as she jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first set. But Mandlikova broke the West German teenager twice to climb back to 4-3.

"I felt pretty good at 4-3 in the first set," Graf said. "Because of her serve, I always felt I had a chance to break her back." Mandlikova's usually strong serve was not in evidence Sunday.

Two double-faults, one at break point, cost Mandlikova her serve in the next game and Graf served out the set at love as the Czechoslovak hit a forehand long.

The trend reversed in the second set as Mandlikova took the early 3-0 lead. But double-faults again came back to haunt the 25-year old second seed and Graf levelled the score at 4-4 after surviving three break points in the eighth game.

Graf broke Mandlikova in the next game and then served out the match at love.

"My serve was the main reason I lost," said Mandlikova, who committed seven double-faults in the match. "Always on the important points I double-faulted. My serve is my main weapon. But because of her return, she put pressure on me."

Graf, who has lost just three times in the last 12 months, has now defeated top-ranked Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, now ranked fourth in the world, and third-ranked Mandlikova in straight sets this year.

The West German sensation was reluctant to say if she should be considered the new world's number one.

"That's a hard question to answer," Graf said. "There are a lot more tournaments this year, so we'll see."

Spain names injured Carrasco for Romania match

MADRID (R) — Francisco Carrasco was named Monday in Spain's squad for the crucial European championship qualifier against Romania in Bucharest next week, even though he is suffering from a leg injury.

Winger Carrasco, who scored a brilliant solo goal in the final seconds to give Spain a 3-2 win over Austria in Vienna earlier this month, was taken off when he pulled a muscle after half an hour of Barcelona's league match against Real Mallorca Sunday.

National coach Miguel Munoz is gambling that he will be fit for next Wednesday when a win would virtually ensure the Spaniards of a place in the finals.

Spain are two points clear of Romania at the top of Group One with maximum points from their three games.

Kuwait dismisses 5th foreign coach

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, with an eye on the Olympic finals in Seoul next year, has dismissed the fifth foreign coach to lose his job with five years.

"The Kuwait Football Association (KFA) Sunday decided to terminate the contract of the national team Manager Gyorgy Mezey three months before the contract expired," the Kuwait News Agency KUNA said in a brief report.

It gave no reason for dropping Mezey, who guided Hungary to last year's World Cup finals, and KFA officials could not be reached for comment.

The report said Kuwaiti coach, Saleh Zacharia, who became

temporary manager last year when flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison was sacked after only nine months, would take over.

Allison, who ended a 12-year reign by Brazilian coaches, was fired soon after soccer's governing body, the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA), lifted a nine-week ban from international matches slapped on Kuwait because of political infighting among local sports administrators.

Zacharia celebrated the return from soccer isolation by steering Kuwait, without a single loss, to its seventh title in the seven-nation Gulf Arab tournament last

April. Mezey extended the side's unbeaten run to nine games before crashing to a shock 2-1 defeat by Iran last February in an opening round tie with political overtones in West Asian group four of the Olympic qualifying matches.

Kuwait, beset by injuries, salvaged their pride with a 1-0 win in the return leg to qualify for the next round on the away goals rule.

Both matches were actually played in Qatar. Iran, resentful of Kuwait backing for its Gulf war foe Iraq, was obliged to move its home game to Doha because FIFA bans countries at war from hosting internationals.

Honeyghan retains world boxing title

LONDON (R) — Briton Lloyd Honeyghan's destructive powers were put into perspective when he was forced to go the distance in retaining his two world welterweight crowns against American Maurice Blocker.

Honeyghan destroyed Don Curry in winning the undisputed world title last September and then swept aside another American, the International Boxing Federation's (IBF) challenger Johnny Bumphus, in two rounds in London in February.

He relinquished the World Boxing Association (WBA) crown on political grounds when he made it clear he did not want to fight white South African contender Harold Voolbrecht who was subsequently beaten by American Mark Breland for the vacant title.

Honeyghan's power and

aggression were seen at their best against Curry and Bumphus but the tall, stylish Blocker proved an altogether tougher opponent in his 12-round challenge for the World Boxing Council (WBC) and IBF titles.

Blocker's superior reach and lightning left jab kept the aggressive Honeyghan at bay and the unanimous points decision could have been a great deal closer if the American had not persisted in hitting low.

"I had to concentrate and I had to keep the pressure on," Honeyghan said at a news conference Sunday. "My strategy was right. It was to keep pressing him back and keep him off balance."

"The only trouble was my fitness was not quite what it might have been," Honeyghan, who has nine

months before he can be called upon for another mandatory WBC defence, said he now planned to snatch some breathing space.

"At last I have time to enjoy being champion," he said. The Jamaican-born Honeyghan showed his limitations against a skilled counter-puncher who grew in confidence as the fight went on.

Unbeaten in his previous 24 fights, Blocker continued to score with his left and Honeyghan twice changed his stance to southpaw in an effort to thwart the American.

A disappointed Blocker believed he had done enough to win. "I thought it was for me. I did not box for three rounds but then I got going and won the fight," he said after hearing the verdict.

Former track star cautions older joggers

By Iva Drapalova
The Associated Press

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia — To run or not to run?

If you ask legendary Czech track distance star Emil Zatopek, he will say run, but take it easy, especially if you were once a competitor.

In the post-World War II years, Zatopek won four Olympic gold medals and broke 18 world records. At the 1952 Helsinki Summer Games, he scored a remarkable triple, winning the 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and the marathon.

But the onetime Czechoslovak army officer firmly opposes races for aging former athletes.

"A sportsman has learned out to respect tiredness, pain, the warning signals," Zatopek said in a recent interview with the Associated Press. "So he runs and runs, and then collapses."

To underline his point, he recalled one of the Bechovice races outside Prague, an annual 10-kilometre run that attracts about 3,000 runners of all ages. One year, Zatopek said, three runners collapsed with heart problems, and one died.

"You had six ambulances, and they were all used," he added. Musing on the perils of veterans' races in his home in suburban Prague, Zatopek said, "sportsmen, especially those who started as juniors clocking junior records, are sometimes worn out by the time they are 25."

"For runners, it's the Achilles tendons. Discus throwers may have a backbone twisted like an old woman at 27," he added. "Look at the older sportsmen. They are short-tempered, and take no joy in training. They are afraid of losing and afraid to give

younger people a chance."

Although his face lights up when he tells of the "euphoria of running," Zatopek himself is firmly out of the sport following a heart seizure last year and a doctor's warning against over-doing things.

The last time he ran competitively was about 15 years ago in the Bechovice race.

"I was third in my category, but I strained a leg muscle and could not walk afterwards," he recalled. "I was not happy and that was the last time anyone tempted me."

According to Zatopek, running may not be so harmful for the older or even the elderly who have never previously been keen sportsmen.

"The guy may be 40, but he has never chased records. Sportwise, he is a youngster, eager for everything. The organism is not worn out, only neglected, and it can dust off physical neglect quickly," he said. "These people can achieve good results at around, say, 50, and it's good for their health."

Now 65, Zatopek is a pensioner, tending a garden where he grows potatoes and other vegetables. "I leave the flowers to Dana," he said, referring to his wife, a 1952 Olympic gold medalist in Javelin who helped him

build their home in the Prague suburb of Troja.

Although this quiet life is repeatedly punctuated by trips abroad and requests to act as a race starter, Zatopek has adopted a creed that might surprise those who remember his strained face when he approached the finish line and the rigours of his training methods.

"Run daily, run slowly, don't be afraid to dress well — there is no need to be cold or uncomfortable," Zatopek said. "Drink if you feel like a drink, don't force your body, love yourself — that's my health creed."

"Being happy is more important than being healthy," he added. "If you feel you'd rather dig your garden, then go dig your garden."

Thinking back on his sports career, he said, "I was afraid to lose. I was afraid to slacken. Dana even bounded me out of our bed because I was running all night in my sleep, fidgeting all the time."

"I was in Paris," he recalled. "I went past the Eiffel Tower, but all I thought about was where I could go and train. When you stop needing to live with records, you suddenly notice that the roses are flowering."

Marathon runners seek more than quest for victory

BOSTON (AP) — Johnny "the elder" Kelly won the Boston marathon twice. But now he just strives to cross the finish line in less than five hours, a pace that puts him at the back of the pack.

But then, Kelly is 79 years old. He has run in a record 55 Boston marathons and will attempt his 56th on April 21, when more than 8,500 runners will start.

"I run a marathon a year. If I didn't think I could do it, I wouldn't do it. It's just like brushing my teeth," he said in a recent telephone interview from his home in East Dennis, Massachusetts.

Kelly is a member of a varied and interesting group of runners driven by personal motivations to complete a gruelling marathon they have no hope of winning.

They include Scotty Mathis, 26, who will run in his second Boston marathon with an artificial lower leg, and Ruth Rothfarb, an 85-year-old woman who began running at age 72 and now will run her seventh marathon in Boston.

Mathis was only seven his right leg was caught in the blades of a

lawn mower. It was amputated just above the ankle.

He needed help from the office of Boston mayor Ray Flynn to get permission to run the race last year.

"I would have died on that road if I wouldn't have finished. I came there to run that race," Mathis said. "I'd gotten a lot of publicity through it and I couldn't go home (Dunwoody, Georgia) and tell people I didn't make it."

He was the last one over the finish line before the official timing ended. It took him 4 hours, 7 seconds to complete the 26-mile, 385-yard course. It took even longer for many others who ran without a handicap.

"Some people, when they see me beating them, they say, 'golly, who is this guy?' Mathis said.

When Rothfarb jogs around Miami, her elderly neighbours sneer.

"They stare at me. They ask, 'are you still running?' she said, mimicking their voices of derision. "I guess they're jealous."

When she began running at 72 it was for fun. "It's something you can do for yourself that you can't

buy," she said. Three years later her son, Herbert, suggested she try a 10-kilometre race.

She soon broke race records for her dwindling age group. For five years, Avon (cosmetics) sponsored her on the running circuit, and for a time she lived in California. Every weekend she races, whether in New Zealand, Boston or towns within 40 miles of Miami.

"I'm not remarkable," she said. "I have slowed quite a bit in the past few months. Now I'm a 12-minute mile. It's natural. My age has a lot to do with it. But I feel good. I feel great."

This is her second Boston marathon. Last year in the division for women 60 and older, she came in third at 7:35:31. Both women who beat her were 60.

In his prime, Kelly's best time in the race was 2 hours, 30 minutes and 40 seconds. He won the race in 1935 and 1945, and finished in the top 10 in 19 of the marathons.

Although he had run for years, the nickname "the elder" didn't come until 1957, when John J. Kelley won the marathon. That winner, though not related, is called "the younger."

Boston marathon followers call "the elder" Kelley a legend.

"There's no other single indi-

vidual who means as much to the Boston marathon," says four-time Boston marathon winner Bill Rodgers.

Clarence Demar is the only runner to even come close to Kelley's feat, competing in 33 Boston marathons until he was 63 years old.

Rodgers, 39, has run in the Boston race 11 times and dropped out twice. He says he knows of no athlete who has achieved the same level of physical fitness as Kelley, who failed to finish just three times in his 55 Boston marathons.

"He's just a phenomenon," Rodgers says of Kelley. "He's got the kind of fitness maybe doctors 50 years from now say people should have."

Kelley, a retired maintenance worker for Boston Edison, says he has been saying fit since he was 9 years old. He exercises year-round and runs 35 to 40 miles a week.

"I'm trying hard to be alive," he says.

Kelley, a member of the 1936, 1940 and 1948 U.S. Olympic teams, says he is not overconfident about his chances of finishing this year's marathon.

"My problem is to get to the finish line and finish it in my own race and own pace," he says.

Carlsson beats defending champion for Nice Open

NICE, France (R) — Swedish teenager Kent Carlsson celebrated his return to the Grand Prix Tennis circuit when he dethroned defending champion Emilio Sanchez of Spain 7-6, 6-3 to win the Nice Open.

The 19-year-old had played in only one other Grand Prix tournament since winning in Barcelona last October because of a back injury sustained in a Davis Cup tie against Czechoslovakia.

Then he had to pull out in the third round of that lone tournament, in Indian Wells, California, two months ago, after he twisted his knee.

Carlsson narrowly escaped first round defeat when he survived three match-points against American Jim Pugh, but he clinched the title Sunday despite an attack of cramps and what he called the "terrible" behaviour of Sanchez.

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سكيا في الجبل

Iraq scraps five state economic organisations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council Monday scrapped five state economic bodies as part of a campaign by President Saddam Hussein to cut red tape and wasteful expenditure by government.

An official decree named them as the State trading organisations for productive commodities, consumer commodities, grain and food products, exports and imports.

It said that all the economic and trade bodies previously attached to the five organisations would be transferred to the trade ministry.

Three other departments, coordinating relations with socialist, African and Arab states, were also abolished.

The decree said a new department, the General Establishment for Import and Export, would now control Iraq's trade relations.

President Hussein launched his drive early this year in an apparent attempt to reduce the cost of government and save money for the war effort against Iran.

Economic analysts said they expected that measures to abolish state organisations in other ministries would be announced soon.

Gibraltar attracts business

GIBRALTAR (AP) — Two years ago Spain reopened the gate that had cut off Gibraltar from the rest of Europe for 15 years. Now, business in the British colony is booming and the future looks as solid as the monumental rock.

Gibraltar's economic foundation, tourism, port service and duty-free sales have seen modest gains but banking is where the big money is.

Six new banks have received licences to open offices since last autumn, bringing the total number of foreign banks to 16. With two other licence applications in the works the number would reach 18, a 50 per cent increase in the 6.5-square kilometre colony.

More international banks are expected, making Gibraltar one of the fastest-growing new offshore banking centres in the world.

Bank deposits at the end of last year reached £317 million (equivalent at the time to about \$470 million), up from £168 million in 1984. Officials predict total deposits by the end of this year could be twice as much as in 1986.

Still, Gibraltar is small change compared to older banking centres like the Cayman Islands and the Channel Islands.

Banks are drawn to the rock by local laws that attract foreign depositors, including an absence of exchange controls and strict banking secrecy. Banks keep red tape at a minimum and service fees low, hoping to attract wealthy foreign investors who frequent Spain's neighbouring Costa Del Sol.

English is the language of banking in Gibraltar, which makes doing business there attractive to the many older British citizens who have retired to the Spanish coast.

In addition, between 90 and 100 offshore companies are registered in Gibraltar each day, most of these by individuals who use the companies to purchase property, according to a Gibraltar banker who requested anonymity.

The foundation for the offshore activities was laid in 1967, when the government allowed nonresidents to set up tax-exempt companies for offshore business or simply as a tax screen to hold property and assets abroad.

Gibraltar's banks handle transactions for many of these companies. Mr. Salim Manji, chief manager of the Bank of Credit

and Commerce in Gibraltar, travels weekly to the Spain's Costa Del Sol to court wealthy retirees.

"If someone tells you that things are not looking up here, he's asleep," said Mr. Manji, one of an estimated 6,000 Britons living in Gibraltar. "I'd wouldn't be surprised if we see 50 banks here within the next five to 10 years."

Before Spain opened the frontier, Mr. Manji would have had to travel to the Spanish coast via flights through Morocco, Portugal or London. Now he drives the distance in two hours.

In 1969 Spanish dictator, Gen. Francisco Franco, cut off land and ferry links between Gibraltar and the Spanish mainland. During the 16-year blockade, developments were slow.

In 1963, Gibraltar passed the laws protecting depositors and in 1985, when the border opened, the boom began.

Spain was welcomed to the European Community and membership brought new investment to Spain and neighbouring Portugal.

The new enterprises that might once have looked to Hong Kong or South Africa for financial service have started looking to Gibraltar as a more politically stable economic haven.

Besides the growing pool of potential clients, banks are attracted by Gibraltar's low tax demands.

Although Mr. Manji's Bank of Credit and Commerce pays Gibraltar's standard 35 per cent corporate tax, many of the newcomers holding offshore licences pay a flat £225 (\$350) annual fee. These banks include Republic National Bank of New York, Credit Suisse, Banco De Bilbao (Gibraltar) Ltd. and Banco Central, Spain's biggest bank.

Meanwhile, negotiations continue between Britain and Spain over the future of Gibraltar, which was ceded by Spain to Britain in 1713.

Following a November 1984 agreement in Brussels, the two nations began discussing sovereignty at periodic meetings, the next one scheduled for June.

Despite frustration over slow progress between Spain and Britain over Gibraltar's fate, government leaders predict continued growth in the financial sector. They see the financial boom as one answer to unemployment which hovers around 5.5 per cent on the barren area without agriculture or much industry.

Lebanon sinks into economic despair

BEIRUT — The almost total collapse of Lebanese lira (L.L.) is a near-perfect index of the country's misery 12 years after the outbreak of the civil war. The pound depreciated 380 per cent in the past year against the dollar, reflecting almost total despair among Lebanese at prospects of an early end to hostilities.

Even the Syrians who brought relative calm to west Beirut failed to restore confidence in the battered local currency. The pound appreciated briefly in February before sinking back to its end-March level of more than L.L.100 to the dollar.

The Lebanese pound's rapid depreciation has helped fuel an alarming surge in prices, which rose more than 100 per cent last year, according to some estimates. Lebanon depends on imports for 80 per cent of its foodstuffs.

The inflationary spiral is playing havoc with businesses, household budgets and the government's ability to protect the living standards of citizens.

An informal indexation is operating in Lebanon but there is no formal mechanism to provide a cushion against inflation's worst ravages. A recent 40 per cent pay increase for government workers made little impact on the problem, merely adding to the budget deficit.

People complain that fruit and vegetables are 10 times more expensive than they were a year

ago. A staple item such as leontis has rocketed from L.L.5 per kilogramme to L.L.82 a kilogramme in a year.

The middle class is selling land, cars, furniture and jewellery in an effort to survive. Basic health care is proving beyond the means of many Lebanese. A rudimentary government health insurance programme pays just L.L.400 (\$4) towards an operation which is likely to cost hundreds of dollars.

The pound crisis has led to an increase in robberies and muggings. A woman from west Beirut said there were even cases of food muggings by people desperate to feed their families.

Lebanese, who have managed to survive years of turmoil, are finding the economic crisis a bitter experience. Many, including members of a once well-to-do middle class, are living below the poverty line. There are reports of well-dressed Lebanese scavenging in refuse dumps for scraps of food before dawn so they will not be seen by friends and neighbours.

The pound crisis has helped breed a nation of currency speculators which itself is contributing to pressures on the pound. Most Lebanese with funds at their disposal converted them long ago to foreign currencies.

The highest denomination banknote is the L.L.250, worth less than \$2.50. The Lebanese pound note itself is not

worth the paper it is printed on, a humiliating circumstance for Lebanon, which once prided itself of being the Switzerland of the Middle East.

The extent to which confidence in the pound has collapsed in a relatively short period is illustrated by the fact that when Mr. Amin Gemayel was elected president in 1982 the local currency was still trading at L.L.4.32 to the dollar seven years after civil war broke out.

Its accelerated depreciation in the past year may well mark something of a watershed in the hopes of Lebanese who had clung, long after it seemed reasonable, to a vague notion that a political solution would be found to Lebanon's difficulties.

Lebanon's budget deficit is contributing to pressures on the pound. The 1987 budget forecasts expenditures of L.L.69.25 billion against receipts of just L.L.4.25 billion from a shrinking customs duty and tax base.

The government is part-financing the deficit by sharply increasing the ratio of deposits banks are required to hold in treasury bills, squeezing liquidity in the process. Statutory impositions on the banking system are expected to finance two-thirds of the deficit this year.

Lebanon's beleaguered central bank is widely criticised for its failure to halt the slide in the value of the pound. The bank intervened in the market late last

year, outlaying \$500 million, about half Lebanon's foreign-exchange reserves, in an effort to stop the pound's depreciation. The measure failed.

Lebanon's gold reserves of 9.2 million troy ounces valued at between \$3.5-\$4 billion are shorting up the pound against total collapse. About 60 per cent of the reserves are held at the central bank in west Beirut.

Lebanon's foreign debt totals a modest \$375 million.

Political disagreements are preventing the gold from being converted to interest-bearing foreign currency deposits to help the government through its economic crisis.

Lebanese industry, which forms about 20 per cent of Lebanon's economy, is the one sector to have benefited from the depreciation of the currency. It is highly competitive and this is reflected in its strong export performance in the past year.

Another consequence of the chaos in Lebanon is that little new investment is entering the country. Bankers estimate that \$12-\$16 billion is deposited in Lebanese banks abroad.

Bankers, businessmen and officials in Beirut see little prospect of an improvement in the economy, however, in the absence of a political settlement. Prospects are for increasing budget deficits and further pressure on the pound — Financial Times news feature.

U.S. will keep trade sanctions on Japanese goods

TOKYO (R) — U.S. trade sanctions against Japan, announced last Friday, will stay in place for the time being, U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, said Monday.

Asked whether sanctions would continue, following Japanese requests they be removed, Mr. Yeutter told Reuters: "Oh sure. We've told them that over and over already. If they have questions about them, then we will be prepared to answer."

Washington has imposed 100 per cent tariffs on \$300 million worth of Japanese electronic exports, including automatic data processing machines, rotary drills and colour televisions, in retaliation for Japan's alleged failure to adhere to an agreement on bilateral semiconductor trade.

Mr. Yeutter's comments appeared to undermine hopes that special Japanese envoy, Mr. Shintaro Abe, in Washington to ask for early removal of the sanctions, will be successful.

Mr. Yeutter, the key U.S. official in Japan this week for trade discussions, was told by Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari Monday that Japan was working on concrete economic and trade measures, including

ways to boost domestic demand and increase imports from the United States.

According to a foreign ministry spokesman, Mr. Yeutter replied that what was needed now for Japan was action, not words, and said he saw no impression of action being taken over the past year, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng met his Japanese counterpart Mutsuki Kato Monday and pressed Japan to open its markets for U.S. rice, beef and citrus, and elicited pledge that Japan will join global negotiations over trade in farm products.

Mr. Yeutter is in Japan to attend the bilateral annual Shimoda conference, a forum for a general exchange of views between the two nations.

Trade dialogue will continue this week at meetings in central Japan of top trade representatives from the United States, European Community, Japan and Canada.

Indonesia worries about unemployment

JAKARTA (R) — A leading economist has warned of the dangers of rising unemployment in Indonesia as Finance Minister Radins Prawiro said in an interview published Monday business had become sluggish and inefficient.

Mr. Widjojo Nitisastro, a former economics minister who was architect of Indonesia's economic recovery in the first decade of President Suharto's rule, said the problem of growing unemployment was now the greatest challenge facing the government which should be tackled without delay.

The drop in world oil prices has hit Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), forcing the government to cut back spending, particularly on development projects.

According to official figures, unemployment more than doubled in 1986 from two per cent to 4.68 per cent. But the government did not say how many people were out of work and unemployment is disguised by people returning to their home villages when they lose jobs in the city.

According to the World Bank, at least 35 per cent of Indonesia's estimated workforce of around 80 million are considered what it terms "underemployed."

Indonesia is the world's fifth largest country with a population of 168 million.

Mr. Widjojo, who is at present deputy head of the national development planning ministry, said in an interview with the leading newspaper Kompas that the government's more limited funds should be used to create jobs instead of financing new big development projects.

He said an estimated 9.3 million people will have entered the job market between 1983 and 1988.

"Unless the problem is solved without delay it will get worse," he stated.

For the past two years in its annual reports on Indonesia, the World Bank has warned that rising unemployment is a serious problem which could get out of hand unless action is taken.

Unemployment became an issue in the campaign next Thursday's general election, with the resurgent Democratic Party championing the small trader, street vendor and rickshaw driver.

In a separate interview with Kompas, Mr. Prawiro said too much protection for domestic industry had made Indonesian business inefficient for a long time.

He said the sudden fall in oil prices had halved Indonesia's revenue from oil and gas exports and the government had been forced into cutting tariff barriers and taking other measures to devalue the protected, high-cost economy.

Syria turns to barter to nurse reserves

DAMASCUS — Syria has become one of the latest countries to develop a policy of barter in order to try to boost its exports and circumvent a desperate foreign-currency shortage.

Representatives of a growing number of West European and American companies have been in Damascus in recent months attempting to set up barter deals, swapping such Syrian products as phosphates, canned foods, asphalt, cement, cotton yarn and textiles for much-needed imports such as pharmaceuticals and spare parts for machinery.

The new policy has been developed by an export committee consisting of seven government ministers and chaired by Mr. Salim Yassio, deputy prime minister for economic affairs.

It is quite distinct from the so-called "clearing arrangements" which Syria set up with a number of Eastern European countries about 25 years ago. All of these have lapsed except an important arrangement with the Soviet Union.

Development of barter trade is expected to coincide with a rationalisation of Syrian imports to take account of the foreign-exchange shortage. Precise estimates of the state of Syria's foreign-currency reserves are impossible to come by but are believed in Damascus to have fallen to less than \$100 million, which itself would only be enough to cover imports for a few days.

Officials claim that imports fell sharply last year, especially of luxuries, while exports have begun to pick up.

Critics of the policy say that smuggling is still rife despite the introduction of tough penalties for exchanging currency on the black market; that barter is exceptionally complex, especially when dealing with an opaque bureaucracy such as Syria's; and that there is in any case a limit to what barter can achieve on the export front, since Syria does not have a large range of attractive goods for sale.

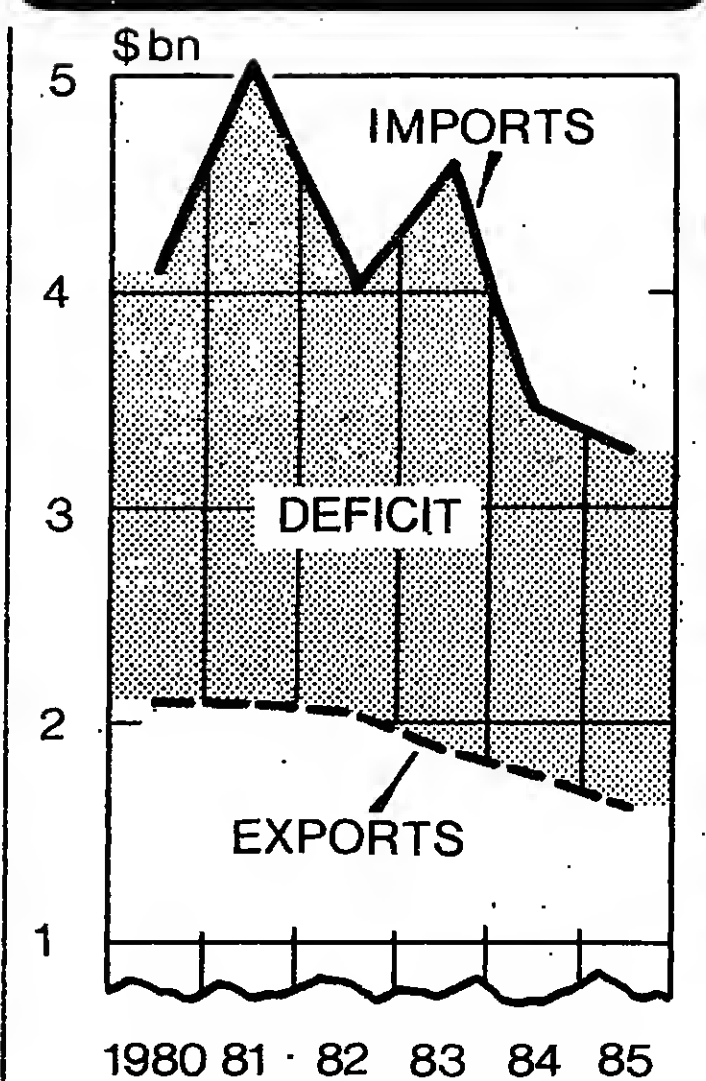
Its cotton fibre, for example, is of high quality and can be readily sold for cash. But its phosphates, of which Syria has between 1.5 million and two million tonnes per year available for export, are understood to be relatively low-grade and difficult to sell at the prices being asked by the Syrian authorities — about \$25 per tonne against a market price of \$19.

In practice, companies involved in barter appear simply to be accepting the high Syrian prices and offsetting them by charging more for the goods they sell in exchange.

Some of the barter arrangements are also being used in part to settle Syria's payments arrears. "Barter companies are coming to us with proposals that we sell them goods and then half the proceeds would go to settle our commercial debts and half to buy more goods," said one senior official.

One possible example involves France, which has been discussing Syrian payment arrears totalling about FF 350 million (\$58.2 million), but also wants to sell some cereals to Damascus — Financial Times news feature.

SYRIAN TRADE



Peanuts



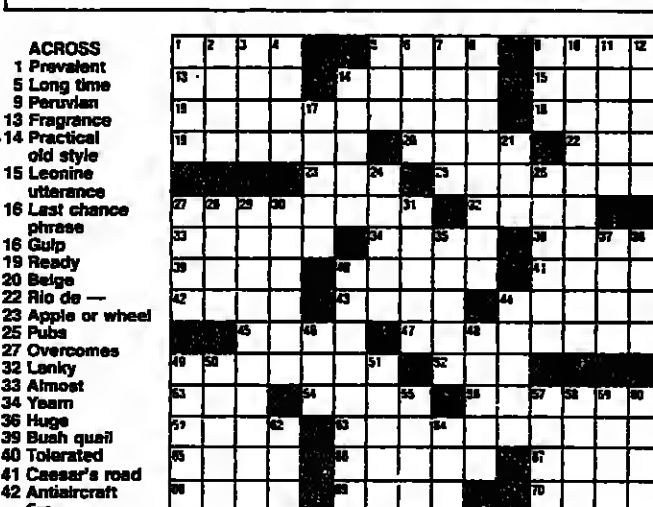
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flegner



Horoscope not received

سكربت من ابي

Alfonso quells 4-day military rebellion without bloodshed

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Raul Alfonsín has persuaded leaders of an army uprising to end their rebellion without bloodshed, flying by helicopter to a big military base to meet the rebel officers' leader face-to-face.

About 600 rebel officers who had warned they were prepared to fight to the death backed down Sunday after Mr. Alfonsín took a helicopter to their stronghold, the Camp de Mayo military base, and met rebel leader Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico.

His plea for a peaceful end to the rebellion received critical backing from four days of massive civilian street rallies in support of the country's fledgling democracy. Officials said they were a decisive factor in pressing the rebels to back down.

"The mutineers have set aside their attitude... They will be arrested and tried as befits them," Mr. Alfonsín told 150,000 cheering people in front of Government House after flying back from the base.

"I ask you all to return to your homes, kiss your children and

celebrate Easter in peace," he said. The relieved crowd exploded into wild cheers and shouts of "Argentina, Argentina."

The rebellion, which began at a military base in the central city of Córdoba and spread to Camp de Mayo, Argentina's largest military base, was seen as the most serious challenge to democracy since Mr. Alfonsín took office in 1983 after nearly eight years of military rule.

It was a protest against civilian trials for officers accused of human rights abuses during the military's "dirty war" against left-wing guerrillas and sympathisers in the 1970s. More than 200 officers have been indicted by civilian courts for human rights abuses.

While Mr. Alfonsín visited the base, near Buenos Aires, rein-

forcements loyal to the civilian government stood outside led by Gen. Ernesto Alais, who had said he was ready to use force to crush the revolt.

The rebel officers were Sunday night in the custody of superiors at the infantry school where they staged the revolt. They said they would surrender their arms Monday, the independent news agency Diarios Y Noticias reported.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Hector Rios Erenu asked Mr. Alfonsín to allow him to retire, the semi-official news agency Telam reported. Leaders of the revolt had demanded the removal of the army leadership starting with Gen. Rios Erenu, who has earned the bitter resentment of middle- and lower-ranking officers by ordering them to appear in court to answer human rights charges.

"The people united and in peace helped the president consolidate democracy and solve the military crisis," congressional Deputy Enrique Vanoli of Mr. Alfonsín's ruling Radical Party told reporters.

Argentines have endured six military coups against elected governments since 1930, often with the acquiescence if not the approval of an apathetic public, but citizens who attended the demonstration said things had changed.

"I have been nervous all day — cried a little without knowing what's going to happen to the country. Another coup would mean death," said 54-year-old Marta Velez, a Buenos Aires office worker.

Adolfo Rodriguez Saa, governor of San Luis province and a leader of the opposition Peronist Party, quoted by the independent news agency Diarios Y Noticias, said: "There will never be another military coup in Argentina. The Argentine people have consolidated democracy forever."

A police spokesman said about 350,000 people came to the Plaza de Mayo in front of Government House in Buenos Aires at some point during Sunday's all-day rally.

Sri Lankan rebels kill 16 in separate attacks

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil separatist guerrillas Monday attacked a Sinhalese village and a security forces camp in Sri Lanka killing 15 civilians and a policeman, officials said.

They said the civilians, five men, five women, four girls and a boy, died when rebels stormed Wan Ela village, 130 kilometres from the eastern city of Trincomalee and opened fire.

The raid on Wan Ela, a Sinhalese colony in Jayanthipura area in the predominantly Sinhalese Polonnaruwa district, was the second attack on civilians in four days.

In the other incident Monday, rebels attacked a security forces camp at Oddusundara in the northern Mullaitivu district killing a sub-inspector of police and wounding a constable, a government spokesman said.

He said the security men repulsed the guerrillas who attacked with rocket propelled grenades and small arms.

The spokesman said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrilla group was responsible for Monday's attacks as well as for an ambush on Good Friday in which 126 people were killed.

The LTTE has denied it was involved in Friday's attack on three buses and two lorries at Kikulwatta about 30 kilometres from Wan Ela.

The Tigers, in a statement issued in the South Indian city

Madras on Saturday, said the government charges "are unfounded and aimed at tarnishing our image."

The government issued a statement Sunday night saying it had definitely established from intercepted radio communication signals and statements of survivors that the Good Friday massacre was planned and executed by LTTE fighters led by Pullendran, the group's leader in an eastern district.

The government extended indefinitely Monday a 12-hour curfew imposed Sunday night in Trincomalee district to enable troops to continue their hunt for the attackers.

The authorities clamped a 34-hour curfew on Trincomalee on Friday after the ambushers were reported to have fled towards the eastern city. The curfew was lifted for 12 hours Sunday to enable Christians to go to church for Easter Sunday services.

The government said that with permission from the police officers could bury the victims of Friday's massacre on Monday despite the curfew and families would be provided financial assistance for burials.

President Junius Jayewardene warned on Saturday he would be compelled to seek a military solution to the Tamil rebellion if the Tigers and other Tamil groups rejected India's efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

Reactor problems in U.S. threaten warhead production

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — The United States may have difficulty arming and maintaining nuclear weapons because safety problems have shut or scaled back operations at five reactors that produce plutonium and tritium, officials say.

Sylvester Foley, the U.S. Department of Energy official in charge of production since 1985, acknowledged there could be "a problem of increasing dimensions" with safety shutdowns at the reactors, the Charlotte Observer reported Sunday.

The output of three reactors at the Savannah River plant near Aiken, South Carolina, has been cut back 50 per cent and a fourth reactor has been shut since 1985 for yet-unresolved safety problems. Officials had planned to operate the reactors at full output this year, according to an Energy Department document.

The N reactor at the Hanford plant in Washington state was closed in January for safety modifications because its design is similar to one proven dangerous in the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Right now, Foley said, the Energy Department can meet production requirements set by the Defence Department partly by obtaining some plutonium from retired weapons.

"In any given year, some of the material comes from... (old) weapons, some of the material comes from new production, some of it comes from the stockpile that we have," said Foley, assistant secretary for defence programmes.

The Savannah River Plant's C reactor had been dedicated to producing tritium before it was shut in 1985 to fix a crack in the reactor tank. Tritium production has been shifted to the other three reactors, which Foley said officials are now nervously watching for cracks.

The Energy Department didn't plan to ask for money for a new reactor until next year, but the House Armed Services Committee earlier this month voted the first \$20 million.

The Energy Department intends to choose a site this year, perhaps as early as this summer, spokeswoman Karen Wheeler said. The reactor would cost \$4 billion to \$8 billion and would not be ready until about the year 2000.

He told parliament Sunday night the government would take the necessary steps to improve law and order, without referring directly to the Karachi riots.

Professor Ghafur Ahmad, deputy head of the right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party, and Mairaj Mohammad Khan, leader of the left-wing Quami Muhaz-i-Azadi group, also criticised the government's role in maintaining law and order.

Fatehah Ali Khan, chief of the left-wing Mazdoor Kissan Party, warned the government that the riots could engulf the whole country.

Serving officers involved in Philippine mutiny

MANILA (R) — Serving officers were involved in Saturday's eight-hour mutiny at the Philippine Army Headquarters, a senior officer said Monday.

Brigadier-General Alexander Aguirre, head of the Manila Area Command, told reporters some politicians might also be linked to the uprising at Fort Bonifacio, which he described as part of a bigger plot to destabilise the government.

One soldier died in the mutiny, which was led by ex-Sergeant Ernesto Librado, a cashiered member of former President Ferdinand Marcos's bodyguard.

It was the third outright rebellion by dissident troops during President Corason Aquino's 14-month rule.

Armed forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said on Saturday most of the mutineers were former soldiers.

"There were officers that were identified after the usual interrogation," Brig Aguirre said when asked if any officers were involved in the planning of the mutiny.

The riots erupted on Saturday night, when Pashtuns, from north west Pakistan and Afghanistan who live in the Surjani town district, attacked the nearby suburb of New Karachi, home for Mohajir migrants from former British India at the time of its partition in 1947.

The two communities have a long history of rivalry and at least 200 people have died in violent fighting between them in the past six months.

The latest clashes flared as the Mohajirs demanded removal of Pashtuns from Surjani town,

Government blamed for Karachi riots

KARACHI (R) — Opposition politicians in Pakistan have blamed President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's government for ethnic rioting in the country's biggest city Karachi where seven people have died in the past two days.

The riots erupted on Saturday night, when Pashtuns, from north west Pakistan and Afghanistan who live in the Surjani town district, attacked the nearby suburb of New Karachi, home for Mohajir migrants from former British India at the time of its partition in 1947.

The two communities have a long history of rivalry and at least 200 people have died in violent fighting between them in the past six months.

The latest clashes flared as the Mohajirs demanded removal of Pashtuns from Surjani town,

saying they had illegally occupied houses and state land there after their homes in the former drug and arms-smuggling centre of Sobrah Goth were bulldozed in a controversial army operation last December.

At least seven people died in the fighting and more than 50 were wounded, mostly by gunfire, doctors said. Fire-fighters said 28 houses and four vehicles were set ablaze.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chairman of the National People's Party (NPP), told a news conference Sunday night the government had failed to control the riots. Local government officials denied this, saying police took effective action.

Mr. Jatoi, like several other politicians commenting on the rioting, said there was a political vacuum in the country that could only be filled by fresh party-based elections.

Gen. Zia has rejected demands for a new poll until 1990, when the present parliament, elected in party-less polls in 1985, completes its five-year term.

He told parliament Sunday night the government would take the necessary steps to improve law and order, without referring directly to the Karachi riots.

Professor Ghafur Ahmad, deputy head of the right-wing Jamaat-i-Islami Party, and Mairaj Mohammad Khan, leader of the left-wing Quami Muhaz-i-Azadi group, also criticised the government's role in maintaining law and order.

Fatehah Ali Khan, chief of the left-wing Mazdoor Kissan Party, warned the government that the riots could engulf the whole country.

World population to double by the year 2050

WASHINGTON (R) — The world's population will more than double to 11 billion by the year 2050 unless family planning efforts expand and push family sizes down to four children, a population research institute has predicted.

Also, nearly eight billion monthly doses of oral contraceptives, 112 million pre-stillised IUD kits and more than 51 billion condoms will be needed from 1989 to 1998 to keep population figures from rising to 6.2 billion by the year 2000 from five billion today, according to the Population Institute, a Washington-based organisation.

"If Americans felt anguish over the recent human suffering in Ethiopia, just imagine a world in which virtually the entire Third World will be wracked by vast poverty and human misery," Webster Fornos, president of the institute said at a recent news conference.

The report said that if the estimated 100 developing nations with average family sizes higher than four children brought the average down to just four children by the year 2000, there

would be approximately 200 million fewer people in the world than projected.

During the ten-year span from 1989 to 1998, the developing world will require \$32 billion in assistance to provide family planning services to couples who desire them, the report, "A Blueprint for World Stabilisation," said.

The release of the report comes as forty states were preparing to participate in world population awareness week, April 20-25.

The report urged the United States to renew assistance to two groups with abortion programmes — the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The Reagan administration cut money from UNFPA in 1986 protesting that China, an aid recipient, has a coercive abortion policy. The IPPF lost assistance because it counselled, referred and provided abortion services.

Focusing on 20 nations which account for 69 per cent of the world's current population growth, the report provided regional analyses:

East Asia — Burma, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines have weak commitments to curbing growth, the report said, but Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan and China boast securely established family planning programmes and gains.

Middle East and Near East — Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh have strong efforts for curbing population growth, but Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Gaza, Saudi Arabia, Oman, North and South Yemen and Kuwait are growing at three per cent or faster per year.

Africa — ranks as the fastest growing continent. At current growth rate of three per cent, its 602-million population will double in just 20 years and triple by 2025. The continent includes the world's fastest growing nation, Kenya.

Latin America — future is pessimistic because of rapid population growth in Central America and Caribbean nations, including Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua, which are growing at faster than three per cent per year. Mexico, Colombia, Peru and Brazil have well-established family planning efforts.

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Egyptians celebrate a pharaonic feast

CAIRO (R) — Egyptians flocked to the banks of the Nile, crowded public gardens and jammed the Pyramids area Monday to celebrate a spring festival dating back to the Pharaohs. Government offices, banks and schools were closed and the usually-crowded streets of Cairo were empty as people marked the only feast day celebrated with equal zeal by Egypt's Muslim majority and Coptic Christian minority. Ancient Egyptians observed the day 7,000 years ago as the beginning of spring or season of fertility. Now it is known as Sham Al Nessim ("suffing the breeze") and normally falls every year on the same day as the Christian Easter Monday. Most Egyptians mark the day with an early breakfast which includes salted fish, eggs and green vegetables such as lettuce, regarded as signs of fertility.

Triplets trip down the aisle

WINSFORD, England (AP) — Ivor Griffiths married off his triplet daughters Saturday, escorting the trio down the aisle. Griffiths, a grocer in this town near Liverpool, spent \$7,000 (\$11,200) on a lavish triple wedding that included dinner for 300 guests and three vintage Rolls-Royce rented to bring each of the 22-year-old brides to the nuptials. "It's a wonderful thing to give away three daughters in marriage at the same time. No amount of money can buy that pleasure," said Griffiths, 45. Andrea Griffiths, the eldest by 20 minutes, walked down the aisle of the local church in front of her father, and Jackie and Lesley were on either side of him. The complex ceremony, which involved nine bridesmaids, went off without a hitch. Andrea married Ian Brightman, 23, a bank manager. Jackie married Christopher Carlin, 24, an air force officer. Lesley married David Moreton, 23, a water company worker. The six newlyweds first became acquainted with each other while in high school. "Ian and I decided on a date and I asked my sisters if they'd like to join us and they did," Andrea explained. The couples said they will honeymoon separately.

Easter Bunny robs convenience store

MANCHESTER, Ohio (AP) — A gun-toting Easter Bunny robbed a convenience store of \$655, authorities said. The robber, dressed in an all-white rabbit suit and black shoes, carried a paper bag and a handgun into the store on Easter Sunday morning and ordered clerk Bobbie Taylor to hand over the money, said Sheriff Robert Johnston. "She thought he was joking, but he wasn't," said Linda Cantrell, wife of store owner Robert Cantrell. Ms. Taylor told police she watched as the robber fled on foot. She then called the police and faintly. Police Chief James Gallagher said he was washing the department's cruiser to lead the village's annual Easter parade when the call came in. Gallagher is one of two police officers in the town of 2,500.

Shipping magnate plunges to death

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean shipping magnate killed himself by jumping from an office window Sunday, apparently because of an internal feud over the management of his hugely indebted company, police said Monday. They said Park Ken-Suk, 58, chairman of Pan Ocean Shipping, left a suicide note accusing some of his colleagues of mismanaging the company for personal greed. He plunged 30 metres from his 10th floor office. Business sources said Pan Ocean, the largest shipping company in South Korea, had been hit by the worldwide recession in the shipping industry. Police quoted Park's relatives as saying he had been worried about the company's huge debts, currently running at more than 1,000 billion won (\$1.2 billion) or 26 times its capital.

Smoking 'may have helped' Deng's health

PEKING (R) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping has said that he was free of disease — and that smoking may have helped him stay in good health. "The doctors are disappointed whenever they check my health," the 82-year-old Deng has said in a jocular exchange at the start of a meeting with former British Prime Minister Edward Heath. "The doctors have discovered no diseases such as cancer," he said. Mr. Heath said he understood Mr. Deng did not work more than six hours a day but the Chinese leader corrected him, saying his aim was to work no more than two hours a day. Mr. Heath asked whether he had given up smoking but Mr. Deng laughingly lit one of his favourite Panda brand cigarettes and said: "Perhaps I am so healthy because of smoking. That is what (wartime British Prime Minister Winston) Churchill always said, 'rejoined Mr. Heath, a regular visitor to Peking who was here to conduct China's Central Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra at a charity concert. Mr. Deng also said he had seen too many visitors lately, which had kept him busy. His main job now was to give work to other people, he said in a reference to his policy of delegating more responsibility to younger associates.

'Tiny ocean plants may influence climate'

NEW YORK (AP) — Tiny ocean plants may help maintain a "planetary thermostat" by influencing clouds above them to affect climate, scientists say. The plants, called Phytoplankton, excrete a gas that effects the ability of clouds to reflect the sun's rays, they said. In turn, that influences the amount of heat and sunlight that reaches the plants, and so affects the amount of gas produced, forming a feedback mechanism, they said.

China bans individual gold panning

PEKING (AP) — China has banned individual gold panning and processing because of a widespread smuggling problem, the official China Daily has said. The report said the Metallurgical Industry Ministry issued a provision stating that privately owned ore processing plants must shut down and that individuals are no longer allowed to mine gold from streams and rivers. The only exceptions will be "organised individuals" mining in designated places with all the ore being processed in state or collectively run plants. The daily said that since 1978, when private gold mining was first allowed, some 200,000 people have become prospectors. It said, however, that only 1 per cent of what they mine is sold to the state. The rest goes to smugglers who offer higher prices. The daily quoted an official of the China Gold Company as saying 200,000 ounces (5,660 kilograms) of gold a year are lost to the national treasury as a result of smuggling. Individual miners, who account for less than 5 per cent of total production, are also causing serious pollution problems, the report said. Many individual workshops emit poisonous gases from the cyanide and mercury used in gold processing. The government never releases figures on China's gold production, but says output has been rising at an average rate of 10 per cent a year since 1980, making China one of the world's major producers. The Ministry of Geology and Mineral Resources said earlier this year that China has the world's fifth largest gold reserves after South Africa, the Soviet Union, the United States and Canada.

Top-level talks rescue antique train

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Moscow two weeks ago may yield a bonus for British train-lovers — a vintage steam engine. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe was able to persuade his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to consider shipping one of the Soviet Union's famed P36 locomotives to Britain for museum display, said train buff Robert Adley, a lawmaker for Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative Party. Adley said Friday he had asked Howe to look into the possibility of rescuing one of the engines, which are being broken up for scrap after 40 years of hauling express trains. "Sir Geoffrey told me he was able to raise the issue and asked that the Russians might sell or donate one of these engines to Britain," Adley said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WHAT'S IN A GAME?

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ 7 4 2
♥ 10 9
♦ Q 8 6
♣ A K J 8 6
WEST
♠ 5 3
♥ A Q 7 6 5
♦ 9 8 3
♣ 7 5 3
EAST
♠ K Q 10 9
♥ 8 3 2
♦ J 10 7 2
♣ Q 2
SOUTH
♠ A J 8 6
♥ K J 4
♦ A K 4
♣ 10 9 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♣

"What's all this fuss about the difference between rubber bridge and duplicate?" writes a reader from San Francisco. "Either you can play the game or you can't. It's as simple as that."

Would that that were the case. Unfortunately, the difference in scoring makes for a completely different game. But here's a case where the line between the two is blurred.

Regardless of what game you are playing, you reach three no trump on a simple auction. West leads a

heart and dummy's ten wins. How would you play the hand?

The contract is simple if East can be kept off lead. That is impossible if East holds the queen of clubs twice guarded. Since you need only four tricks from that suit, you can guard against the possibility of a doubloon queen by cashing the ace-king of clubs. If the lady doesn't drop, you play a third round of the suit and hope that it is West who turns up with the queen. As the cards lie, you will make an overtrick.

At duplicate it is another story. Since it makes no difference what you do if West has the queen, the key situations occur when East holds the doubloon queen. If you take the finesse, you will make eight tricks if it falls, ten if it wins; if you play for the drop, you make either nine or ten. So it is a close decision, and we would tend to finesse.

Now let's suppose this hand comes up late in a session where you feel you need a few good results if you are to finish in the money. This time it is correct to go against what you would normally do in this case, you would play the same way as you would in rubber bridge. If you do drop the queen offside, you can expect a fine matchpoint score.

Their statements, carried by national newspapers, were another blow to the ruling National Party (NP), still reeling from the defection of prominent members to support independent candidates seeking faster reform of race segregation laws.

The 12 said they backed the so-called Reform Alliance, grouping opposition centrist parties and independents including former Ambassador to Britain

John M. K. S.